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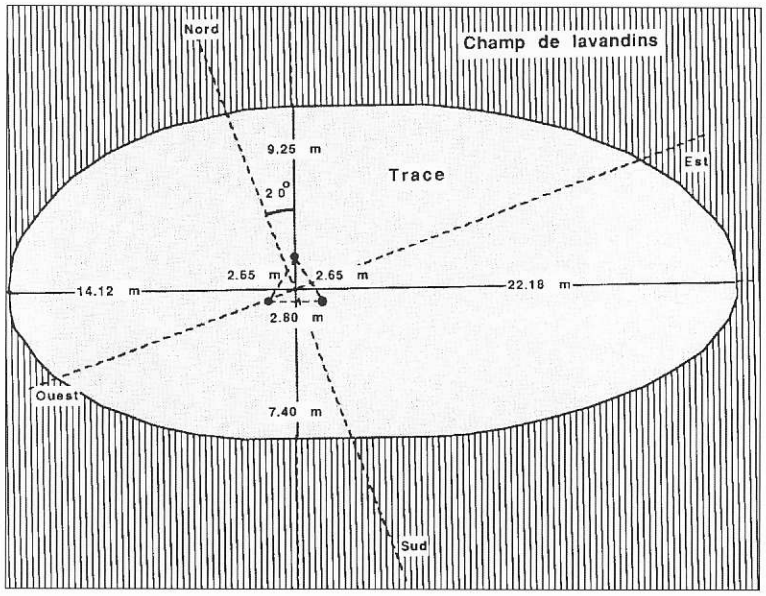
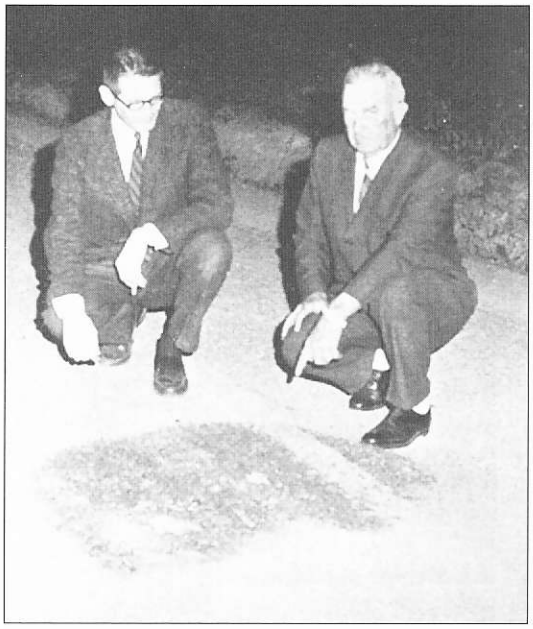
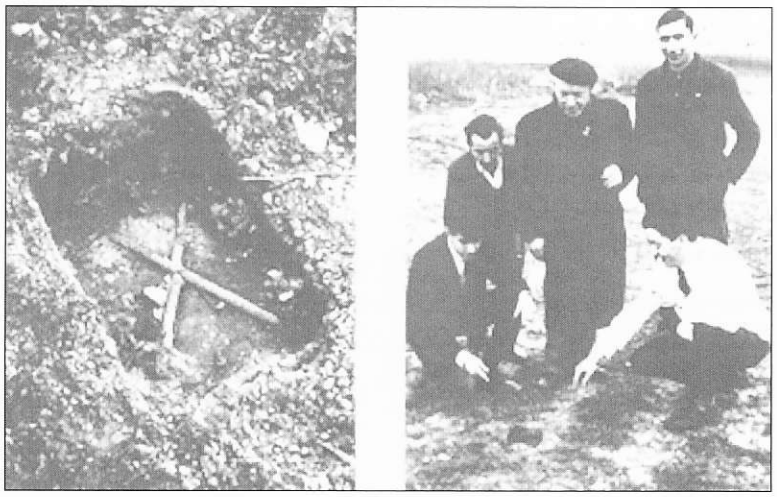


Valensole, France, July 1, 1965



South Hill, Virginia, April 21, 1967



Aluche, Spain, February 6, 1966

Villares del Saz, Spain, July 2, 1953

UFO Report Classification: An Early Effort

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER

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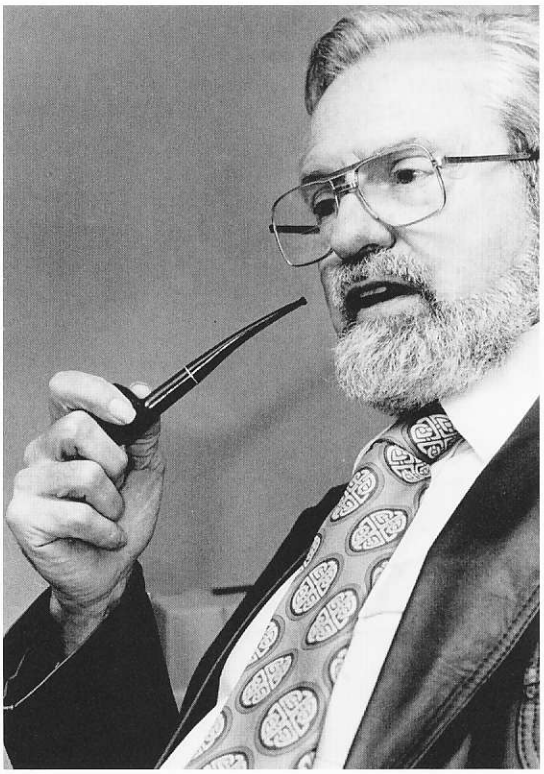

J. Allen Hynek
1910-1986

TOO CLOSE FOR CONDON: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE 4TH KIND *by Michael D. Swords* 3
A PRELIMINARY CLASSIFICATION OF SOME REPORTS OF UFOS *by Fred Merritt* 7
UFOS IN CANADA, 2003 *by Mark Rodeghier* 12
SPOOKY PLAUSIBILITY: A REVIEW OF *SIGHT UNSEEN* *by Craig R. Lang* 15
TAKEN DOWN UNDER (PART 2): THE AUSTRALIAN ABDUCTION EXPERIENCE *by Bill Chalker* 17
OF INTEREST TO CUFOS ASSOCIATES 27
LETTERS 28

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Too close for Condon: Close Encounters of the 4th kind

BY MICHAEL D. SWORDS

Most readers of *IUR* are familiar with the Condon Committee, the U.S. Air Force–sponsored study of UFOs at the University of Colorado in 1967–68. We're aware of the intellectual dishonesty of the principal investigator in his conclusions and the damage this did to our field in the ranks of science. This was the primary sin of commission of the project. But there were also many sins of omission. One especially glaring one was the failure to investigate cases pointing toward phenomena that we now call abductions, or close encounters of the fourth kind.

The committee was composed of intelligent men who were largely ignorant of the UFO phenomenon and had been suddenly dumped into a chaos of UFO activity roiled by the 1966 flap. One aspect of that flap was the publication of the Betty and Barney Hill case.

This case became one of the most famous and spectacular cases in UFO history. The Condon Committee knew of it but apparently never considered an investigation. Perhaps it was considered an old case, one of the type that Project Director Ed Condon very much wanted to steer clear of. Perhaps it was that even the pro-UFO consultants, such as Donald Keyhoe and his National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, cast a wary and generally disapproving eye on any such claim smacking of contact. Perhaps it was just too weird to risk taking seriously. Whatever the reasons, Colorado looked the other way on the Hill case.

The Schirmer investigation

The only "contact" case—as they were labeled then—the project investigated was that of police Sgt. Herbert Schirmer, in Ashland, Nebraska. It occurred on December 3, 1967, during the project, and since it was in a nearby state, the case was hard to completely ignore. The committee investigated the incident approximately one week later.

The initial report, despite being written by the notoriously overly skeptical Roy Craig, was generally supportive. Still, the language reveals Craig to have been a mule with all hooves firmly dug into the ground and resisting. Here is an example concerning Schirmer's polygraph test: "The polygraph reportedly showed no indications that the UFO report was other than truthful." Why not write instead, "The polygraph results indicated that all of Schirmer's answers were truthful"? A small point, possibly, but comments like this are little flags which say that Colorado doesn't want to take this sort of thing seriously.

Schirmer's was seen as a psychological case from the beginning. Maybe some people will object to this interpretation, but it becomes clear if you read the Condon Committee's original documents, as I have. The investigators immediately wanted to run him through a huge battery of psychological assessment tests, looking for evidence of mental dysfunction and a poor grasp of reality. The tests were conducted and evaluated by people who knew that this man had claimed to have been on board a UFO. The conclusion was "psychopathy and schizophrenia," an astonishingly extreme verdict if you consider the positive comments about Schirmer made by project personnel and consultants.

Here are some examples:

"Patrolman Schirmer is dependable and truthful."—*Ashland Police Chief Bill Wlaschin.*

"The patrolman seemed quite sincere in presenting his report."—*Condon investigator Roy Craig.*

"Sgt. Schirmer gave the appearance of being pleasant and cooperative. . . . He presents himself as a conscientious policeman who has a sixth sense or intuition about crime detection; he also seemed to gain satisfaction from the occasional need for violence in his work, although he spoke favorably about the use of Mace."—*Leo Sprinkle, called in to do hypnosis on Schirmer (a difficult task since Schirmer was a very macho guy, a type who resists being controlled).*

After characterizing Schirmer in the most negative terms for several paragraphs, the Colorado psychological assessors said, "With aggression, his reality testing is marginal to good, and, in view of other things, often surprisingly good."—*Robert Fenner and Dean Lund.*

Perhaps the patrolman's excitement at the violent side of his profession is all it takes to give one the designation of "psychopath." If so, I have known a large number of such people in both law enforcement and the military (and athletics and even boardrooms). Maybe most of us are psychopaths. One facetiously wonders whether we can also be legiti-

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mately labeled "schizophrenic" despite "surprisingly good" reality testing?

Using its own poor methods of pursuing the truth, the Condon Committee wrote off the case as a psychological aberration. Additional proof of where their collective heads were at showed up in a little note on Craig's report for the files. He wrote, "the magnetic signature of the police car was determined and will be compared with that of other cars of the same manufacture to see if the magnetic signature has been changed." In the case file, Craig penciled in: "Where is it?" Well, I guess we didn't bother to do the scientific part of the investigation.

With this case as an example, it won't stun you to discover that the project had several other opportunities to respond to CE3 or CE4 reports and decided not to bother. Maybe this attitude was good judgment; then again, maybe not. In the committee's defense, we could suggest that it had hundreds of letters reporting sightings (true) and it could not possibly pursue them all. But someone thought the next three cases were interesting enough that they were retained in the committee's files after all the others were thrown away.

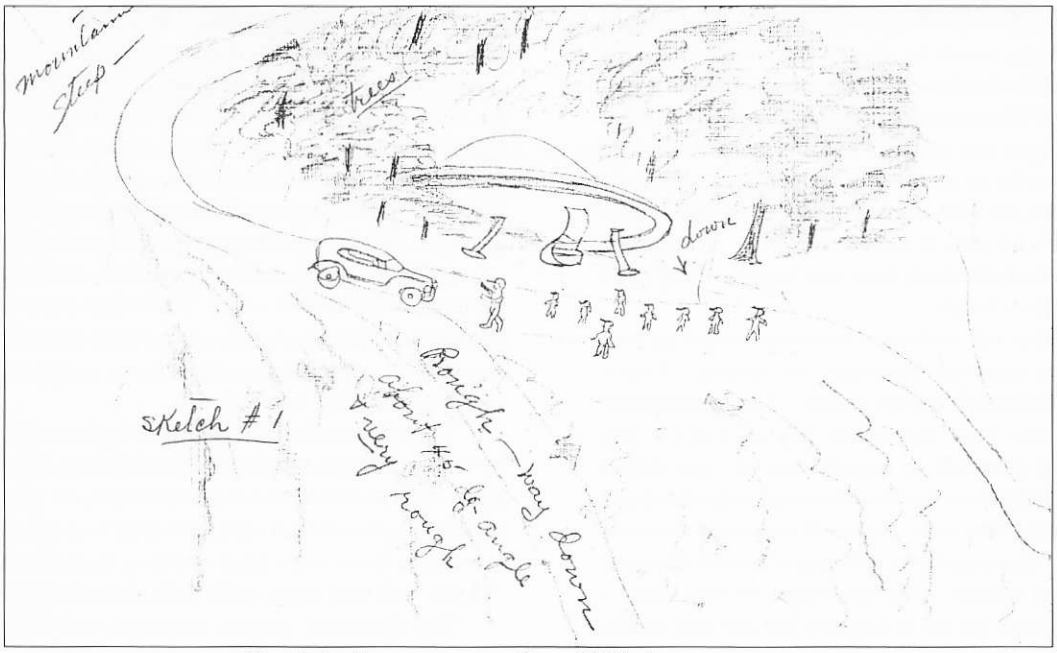
Roadside abduction?

In March 1968, the project received a letter from a woman in Texas who wanted to tell them of her experience and ask for some help in understanding it. She had read *Interrupted Journey,* John Fuller's book about the Hills' encounter, and this had goaded her into writing. She remembered her own encounter clearly and in detail, even though it had occurred over 35 years earlier, and she had been plagued with nervousness and nightmares since. Her doctor had recently told her family that her deteriorating health seemed exacerbated by having something on her mind that was a source of serious stress. She refused to tell them about her experience, however, for fear that her family would have "thought that I'd lost all my marbles."

The experience as she told it in her letter is suspiciously abduction-like. She had several hours of missing time. (In the following narrative, I have corrected the spelling and punctuation, and dropped the repetition in order to let the story flow.)

The experience begins as this young woman was driving in the family car in an isolated hilly area around 10 o'clock in the morning one day in 1930:

> I remember turning a curve on the road and running up to and under the side of a huge "thing" sitting by the road.
>
> I was within a few steps of it, almost under one side of it when I stopped. It was sort of shiny gunmetal color—round and shaped like two dinner plates face-to-face with a dome in the upper top side. It was about 100 feet across, about 15 feet thick. There was a small slender door, and the door chute let down to the ground with steps on the inside of it. The backside of the ship sat on the ground, but the downhill side was braced up with two slender legs with round plates on the ground as feet.
>
> There was one man of normal size; I'd say about 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall and about 165 to 180 lbs. This person came walking in the road to meet me and forced me to stop while he talked to me. Or, *at least I think* he talked, although I did not see his lips move, and he turned his face away and looked down.
>
> While I seemed to hear him speaking, several other persons came walking up behind him—I'd say 8 to 10. I took these persons to be a troop of Boy Scouts, about 8 to 10 years old, average size. However, when near me, I saw that there was a big difference: they looked a bit like Japs or Chinese. They had very large slanted eyes, very large cheekbones, and very thin lips. And they did not look like children but adults. They smiled at me but did not speak. I had to smile back because they were sort of pushing each other around (horseplay), like each one trying to get in front to see better and acting like kids will.
>
> The clothing they wore I at first took to be scout uniforms—tan in color. But when they came up close to me, I saw that there were no pockets, buttons, edges, wrinkles, or pocket flaps. Very clean, neat, and nice. They wore little tight caps cut like baseball caps with little narrow bills. The larger man was dressed the same way. Offhand, the whole bunch seemed like a scoutmaster and his troop of scouts.
>
> We had some little argument. He said: "Lady, you'll have to leave the highway and go around as we have the road blocked here." I said: "What is *that*?" pointing to this thing (saucer). He ignored this question and said, "Never mind, you'll just have to go around. We want the road left clear and open and can't let you through here. You are a wonderful driver and you can make it all right." [The "man" was directing her to drive off the road down into a rocky gully and then up another hillside to rejoin the road some distance away—see witness sketch.]
>
> I still griped and argued and said: "I can't put this big car down through that creek and rocks, it'd tear my car all to pieces, and I could never get out the upper side, and besides you don't own this highway."
>
> But somehow I couldn't help myself, and dazedly drove very slowly and fearfully down into this creek and rough canyon.
>
> I realized that the man was walking right along the side of the car, at my elbow. I felt very safe [then] and was able to make the crossing and was no longer afraid. I wonder why?
>
> This was about 9:30–10 a.m., and it is the last thing I remember until I came to myself walking in on my home porch at about 12 o'clock that night—about 15 miles distant. Where I was, where I went, what happened to me those many hours, I have no idea. Neigh-



Sketch by Texas woman of her 1930 close encounter.

bors had driven along that area during the day, and [later] told my family that they saw my car parked on the hill beyond the canyon. My dad was forming a search party when I came in.

That I was taken aboard this saucer and carried away God Knows Where, I haven't a simple doubt. But, if this did not happen as I remember it, then what did? I want to know—*so badly that I'm sick*. Something did happen—what? I want to know the truth—the whole truth regardless of what it was.

The lady then offered herself for hypnosis and research, but the project ignored her. Condon filed the letter under the category "psychological." Conceivably it was. One thing we do know: The project and Ed Condon couldn't be bothered. And another thing is at least half-true: This is an old and sickly lady asking for some help, but nothing was done. This inaction was a type of sin of omission that reflects badly on Colorado.

Bedroom abduction?

Another abduction account came to the project early in its history. It could not be ignored because the witness was an engineer who owned a business in a local community and who insisted on seeing the committee and telling his tale. He was a repeater witness; his first UFO encounter occurred in 1913, and his CE4 in 1957. His decision to contact Colorado was also (like the lady from Texas) inspired by reading Fuller's book. The description of his case no longer exists in the project summaries, but a letter from the witness to NICAP (with a cc: to Condon) does describe his experience.

You are asleep. You suddenly wake up but are unable to move and are extremely conscious of an all-pervading prickly sensation. You recognize the symptoms because this has happened hundreds of times before. Something is about to happen. WHAT, is uncertain, but you KNOW, consciously as the result of past and precedent-setting experiences, that no longer need you fear the event to take place because at any time subsequent you can instantly terminate the experience at will, should it tend to become too obnoxious or terrifying.

Five dark-complexioned and uniformed individuals are present and gazing down at you. "A preview," one suggests with a smile. The others are silent. You agree, hinting that they can detain you only to the extent you choose. Nods and reassurances. They know it is true. Pajama-clad, you accompany them outside and seemingly zip into a portable medical examination room completely equipped. They switch to white smocks and gather around, two at each side and one at the head, as you are casually strapped down. They converse jovially in a language unknown and not even faintly familiar to you. "Blaze" (a hell of a name, you think secretly) advises you can talk through him. "Fine, what is the purpose?" you ask. He laughs, "Need to examine. Find out condition before flight. There are differences."

He scrapes considerable epidermis off your feet. "Interesting but rather unusual," is your thought, and "didn't realize so much could be scraped off." Conversation. The other individual on your left and one on the right meanwhile examine your abdomen and genitals. Curious. One now holds a six-inch needle poised over your abdomen. "Hey! None of that! It might hurt." Blaze reassures, "Relax; it won't hurt." "Well . . ." doubtfully. He is right, strangely enough. But what a needle!

Assisted by the other on your right, the medic at your

head examines your eyes and face. Blaze prompts, "Repeat the words he speaks after him." O.K. The medic utters single words, presumably, and you repeat them after him consecutively as he flashes various lights in your eyes and seems to make measurements. You guess that he is counting in his tongue, and you are aware that the next number would be six. He utters a word. It's not easy to pronounce. "Six," you exclaim, and all five individuals burst into laughter. "You're all right," Blaze laughs.

A rather tall uniformed individual enters as your straps are removed. Top brass, you assume. "Take it easy with this one; it's new to him," Blaze admonishes. Agreement. They accompany you on board a ship fleetingly glimpsed or impressioned as cigar-shaped and see that you are comfortably positioned and strapped into a bunk. They leave. You await movement and sense its start. You experience a feeling of intense acceleration—too intense—you lose consciousness. After a lapse of time, you are in your own bed and fully awake. Where the heck were they taking you? You receive a vague impression, "The planet 01 . . ." "Louder," you suggest. No response. Gone. Finis.

The project decided to examine the witness for psychological problems using university staff members David Saunders and Victor Raimy. They viewed the witness as being almost two people: one, a smooth, confident, literate man capable of talking coherently on almost any subject; the second, an anxious, rambling, nearly incoherent reporter when speaking of his UFO experiences. Raimy and Saunders used these different behaviors to write off the case as an individual suffering from "a circumscribed psychotic process which is extremely well compensated for" (Raimy) or "paranoid personality structure" (Saunders).

Raimy was actually quite impressed with the qualities of the witness. Saunders, paradoxically because he was the alleged UFO enthusiast of the two, was not. He flatly dismissed the case as "sufficient to warrant our *dis*interest as UFO investigators *at this time*." Neither man was seemingly willing to entertain what is to many people a reasonable hypothesis (even in psychology), to wit, that the remembrance of traumatic events creates an unnatural nervousness and personality change when such memories are being revisited. Instead, the case was simply dumped into the "ignore" file.

The Light Tunnel

To complete this short excursion into one of many areas of lost opportunities by the Condon Committee, I turn next to a brief account from an intriguing letter from a fellow in Georgia. The witness was a conservative Christian who was having some difficulty explaining his experience in terms that his cosmology could accept, but he felt that it might be important to report it to the committee anyway.

He felt that his experience was something like a "religious dream vision" in which he was taken up to heaven. But it was a pretty peculiar taking up. Late one evening in 1949, he, his wife, and their child were sleeping. He awoke and a light beam entered the bedroom. A funnel or tunnel of light surrounded him on the bed. He was pulled upwards through the tunnel. He interpreted this as being raised up to Heaven and God. While in the tunnel he noticed that its sides were composed of bright, active round dots, and black dots that seemed a little further away. The bright dots would swarm together and this clustering appeared to push the black dots away. He interpreted these light forms as angels and devils, doubtless keeping him safe.

When he reached the end of the light tunnel, he was met by strange beings, humanlike but different. They had round eyes, a slit mouth without musculature, no nose, no ears, a pinkish chalk-colored skin, and didn't speak. To him they must have been some kind of being from the Apocalypse. All this will ring many bells with abduction investigators.

The Colorado project response was to file it under "Religious, psychological," not surprisingly.

One must wonder what UFO research might have been like if Colorado had been a serious, open-minded (dare one say "scientific?") research project. Might we have been able to establish a (relatively) uncontaminated set of CE4 cases with data gained under the auspices of a sanctioned academic study? What might that have meant for future research in this area? With what sounds like grays and bedroom visitation and missing time and posttraumatic stress disorder all inhabiting the dust-covered, rejected files of the project, this element of the UFO phenomenon might have been established, or at least clarified, 15 years before it arose from the work of a friendly UFO investigator and artist named Budd Hopkins.

Congratulations, Ed Condon, Bob Low, David Saunders, and Norm Levine. All of you, as usual, blew it. ✦

MARS ROVER SPOTS "UFO"

NASA scientists said March 18 that the Spirit rover on Mars apparently has spotted an unidentified flying object streaking across the planet's sky. The scientists said the object could be the first meteor seen from the surface of another planet, or another NASA spacecraft sent to explore Mars nearly 30 years ago.

The sighting was an accident. Spirit was photographing the Martian sky with its panoramic camera when one of the images it sent back to Earth contained a streak—the brightest object in the sky at the time.

Spirit's mission controllers said the streak probably was a meteor entering the thin Martian atmosphere at high speed. However, it also could have been the Viking 2 orbiter, which was sent to Mars in 1976 and is still circling the red planet in a polar orbit—a path that matches the direction of the streak in Spirit's photograph.—UPI, March 18, 2004.

A PRELIMINARY CLASSIFICATION OF SOME REPORTS OF UFOs

BY FRED MERRITT

FOREWORD BY MARK RODEGHIER

In 1976, in the Chicago area, CUFOS held its first scientific conference. Many of the leading UFO researchers and investigators of the day attended and presented papers. The conference proceedings volume was much in demand and soon went out of print.

Since then, there have been many requests to reprint the proceedings because many of the papers made original contributions in their fields. One example is the work by Fred Merritt on imprints made by landed UFOs. Fred was an active board member of CUFOS for many years, and he was also a dedicated researcher who, like so many in that era, searched for patterns in UFO sightings. The goal of this work was to find patterns for when and where UFOs were seen, what sighting characteristics were associated with each, and even what sighting details correlated with external factors—population density, electromagnetic fields, solar activity, etc.

Fred studied physical trace cases, which everyone recognizes as vitally important to UFO research. If some UFOs are physical objects, then the traces they leave should be a clue to their composition and behavior, if not origin. Fred explored the shapes and dimensions of the landing marks, or imprints, caused by a UFO. These cases are not frequent (if they were, we would know much more about UFOs than we did then, or today). He located 110 imprint cases to examine in the literature as of 1976, and with this sample looked for reports with similar types and sizes of imprints. He found five groups or clusters of similar imprints (he labeled these clusters "catenas"). Surprisingly, he also discovered that the report characteristics of these cases, such as size and type of UFO, type of occupant, and occupant behavior, were also fairly similar.

Once patterns were found, the next step would be to look for these same patterns in new cases, and also to see what the patterns might imply about the UFO phenomenon. For a variety of reasons, Fred wasn't able to take his research much further. Sadly, no one else in the UFO community built upon his work.

In the last few years, there has been a small revival of searching for patterns in the UFO data, either within all types of cases or of specific subsets. This line of inquiry became dormant as attention turned to abduction cases, government cover-ups, and UFO history. All of these topics are, of course, important in their own right, but they superseded other work that is just as vital.

This brings me back to Fred's conference paper. Although CUFOS has no plans to reprint the complete 1976 proceedings, we would like to make some of the papers available to today's interested public, and *IUR* readers. Reprinted below, then, is the paper, minus case sources and an appendix (available upon request). Fred had a talent, as did Allen Hynek, to coin memorable phrases to describe the UFO phenomenon. He gave colorful but descriptive labels to the catenas, including one he called the "Mob from Magonia," a description I have found both memorable and accurate.

Another reason to reprint Fred's paper is because it still represents the state of the art: we know little more about imprint cases now than a quarter century ago. His work, therefore, is still relevant to today's ufology.

As I reread Fred's paper, I was somewhat less convinced of the consistency of his clusters, but still very impressed at the effort and execution of the project. Whether you concur with his evaluation of the imprint data, the chief thing is that he attempted to apply rigorous methods to the study of UFO reports. I do wish someone as dedicated and energetic would take up his project and carry it forward.

Fred Merritt, a former board member of CUFOS, was a long-time collaborator with David Saunders on UFOCAT.

Physical trace reports are relatively rare in the UFO literature. Specialist Ted Phillips has published a catalog of 833 physical trace reports. Reports specifying imprints, which are often taken to be marks left by landing gear, are even less common. UFOCAT, Dr. David R. Saunders's computer file of some 80,000 UFO reports, is aware of only 110 imprint cases. Since imprint reports tend to be highly detailed as well as high in strangeness, and because of the unique kind of physical evidence reported, they deserve further study as a subclass.

The original intent of this study was to determine whether there was any consistency in the reported size and

shape of individual imprints. An initial sample of 65 imprint reports, gathered from a major cross-section of the literature, showed no apparent consistencies in description of individual imprints.

However, reports in which multiple imprints formed similar (but not identical) geometrical patterns were found to have strikingly similar report characteristics: object shape and size, occupant description, etc. Reports lacking the overall shape and dimensions of the imprint pattern were set aside, and most of the remaining reports were found to sort rather easily in five distinct groups or catenas, based on imprint pattern shape and size (expressed as length in meters of the longest side of the pattern).

After the addition of other available reports, the characteristics of each catena were determined intuitively from recurring report details. Reports within each catena are surprisingly similar in detail and fall within limited ranges of imprint-pattern size and shape. A simple rating system was devised to determine how well each report fit the characteristics of the catena. Some adjustments in ranges of pattern size for the catenas were made on the basis of this indicated degree of fit for individual cases.

Reports have been traced to the best available sources, and each report and its investigation have been taken at face value. All 68 reports with pattern dimensions that have come to my attention have been considered, and each has been rated for fit on all five sets of characteristics. As would be expected from the nature of UFO reports, not every case taken at face value falls neatly into a classification. Of 68 reports, 49 fall within the established imprint pattern dimension ranges for the catenas, and 37 of these qualify for inclusion in their respective catena with a net fit rating of at least +3 based on the characteristics of the catena. Ratings of reports outside each catena's range indicate relatively poor or even negative fit with the catena's characteristics.

This study is severely limited by the small number of available reports with imprint-pattern dimensions. But the observed correlations appear to be strong enough to make some preliminary determinations from the reports at hand.

Catena II: Classic Discs

Triangular imprint patterns, generally equilateral, with major sides measuring from 4.7 to 7.9 meters. Of 12 reports in this range, eight appear to fit this composite: 10–11 meter (average) domed or thick discs, often seen in multiples, exhibiting "falling leaf" motion, producing sound. Heat effects are present in the physical traces, and artifacts are often recovered. Both occupant cases specify large groups of normal-appearing or tall people engaged in "repair" activity.

Catena II cases. November 25, 1964 (0045 to 0455), New Berlin, New York. Two brightly lighted, 7.6–9.1 meter, round objects. Nine to 11 human-appearing occupants, 2–2.4 meters tall engaged in repair. Humming or droning sound. Artifact. Two equilateral imprint triangles 4.6–6.1 meters on a side.

May 1946, evening, Ängelholm, Sweden. Domed disc, 16 meters wide, 4 meters thick. Eleven normal-appearing occupants, including two engaged in repair. Whining sound. Artifact. Two imprints and a fin mark in 5-meter equilateral triangle. Grass burned.

July 1, 1968 (1150), Botucatu, Brazil. Disc, 8 meters wide with cupolas top and bottom. "Tinging sound." Imprint triangle, 7 by 6.80 by 5.45 meters. Ladder marks. Smell of gunpowder.

February 6, 1966 (2000), Aluche (Madrid), Spain. Brightly luminous disc, 10–12 meters wide. Muffled hum. Six-meter equilateral imprint triangle within a burned area.

September 13, 1966 (0730), Stirum, North Dakota. Disc "like two bowls lip to lip," 11 meters wide, with transparent bubble on top. Falling-leaf motion. High-pitched whine. Imprint triangle 7.9 by 6.5 by 6.5 meters.

June 1, 1967 (2030), San José de Valderas (Alcorcón), Spain. Disc, 12–13 meters wide, 5 meters thick. Falling-leaf motion. Artifacts. Equilateral imprint triangle a little over 6 meters.

February 8, 1974 (sunset, dawn), Al Mukalla, Yemen. Three large white discs. Three equilateral 5.3-meter imprint triangles, extensive heat damage.

November 29, 1970 (1830), Tatebayashi, Japan. Five or six discs flying in formation. One landed, leaving imprint triangle 4.7 by 3.9 by 4.2 meters, burns.

Catena III: Elusive Lights

Triangular imprint patterns with major sides measuring from 2.44 to 4 meters. Of 11 reports in this range, eight appear to fit this composite: occurrence in darkness, with no solid object seen; light only (often flashes or beams) or no object. Widespread irregular physical traces with occasional radioactivity. EM effects. No occupants or indications of occupants (footprints, ladder marks, etc.). In two cases, investigators express doubt that the marks were caused by a solid UFO. I would like to bring Catena III to the attention of atmospheric physicists for evaluation as a natural phenomenon.

Catena III cases. September 14, 1972 (2200, 0300), Houston, Missouri. Unusual TV Interference, maneuvering light seen at 2200. At 0300, a single bright flash of light on or near the ground. Triangular imprint pattern, 2.44 by 2.38 meters by 82 centimeters in a "large oily, scorched" depressed-oval area. Tree damaged.

Prior to September 4, 1969, Ngatea, New Zealand. No object seen. Plants "cooked," radioactivity. Imprint pattern, 2.75 by 3 by 3 meters within a 17-meter circle of standing dead scrub in area of normal vegetation. Investigator doubts UFO cause, as no objects had been seen to rise from any of nine similar locations.

August 29–30, 1970 (2330 to 0200), Enebacken, Sweden. Bright, round, red light maneuvering near the ground, emitting beams of yellow-white light. Slightly radioactive

burn marks in triangle 2.55 by 2.60 by 2.60 meters. Investigator's comment: "Did not seem as if something had been standing there, but rather as if three jet-beams had been used."

September 20, 1967 (2230), Winsted, Connecticut. Unusual persistent glow on or near the ground. Treetops broken, trunks scraped. Three-meter imprint triangle within 10.7-meter burned area.

June 17, 1969 (0200), Ibiúna, Brazil. Lighted object with "curved lighted window" 8–10 meters wide, 2–3 meters high. "Searchlight" beam. Occurred after series of sightings of orange nocturnal lights on or near the ground. U-shaped pattern of six imprints, which may be two overlapping triangles with major sides of 3.4 meters, within an 8-meter circle of flattened grass.

May 25, 1971 (0200), Lynchford, Tasmania. Witness awakened by barking dogs, saw nothing. Similar patterns in four spots: imprint triangle 90 centimeters by 2.75 meters within 3-meter area of flattened grass. Dogs acted "dopey"; kitten died two days later.

April 20, 1975 (night), San José de Jáchal, Argentina. Stationary beams of light seen. In a desolate area, three imprints formed a 4-meter equilateral triangle, containing a big smoke blot. Nearby plants burned, stones blackened. Footprints found. Seven mushrooms, as large as 20 centimeters wide, were found growing there the next day.

January 3, 1971 (0600 in darkness), Saapunki, Finland. Bright light, 10 meters wide, at an altitude of 8 meters, moving in a heavy snowstorm. Electrical power in two houses failed. Area 3.7 by 3.7 by 2.3 meters, with apex of triangle cut off in snow refrozen to green ice with soot, later changing to dark blue-gray.

Catena IV: Mob from Magonia

Triangular imprint patterns with major sides of 2 meters and less. Of 11 reports in this range, 10 appear to fit this composite: Male below the age of 20 among the primary witnesses (specified in eight of 10 Catena IV cases, but in only 19 of the 58 other pattern dimension cases). Occurrence frequently in daylight, with an unusual (other than disc, sphere, cigar, light mass) UFO shape, 4 meters or less in major dimension, which is first seen on or near the ground. In the two occupant cases, occupants are described as 1.45–1.7 meters tall, unusual humanoids. Both objects and occupants exhibit absurd, apparently purposeless, nonsensical, or capricious behavior that seems inconsistent with the apparently technological sophistication of the object. Additional aggressive, threatening, or destructive behavior in some cases. Heat effects usually absent from physical traces. Some reports include an apparently related, subsequent UFO event.

Catena IV cases. July 2, 1968 (1130), Sierra Chica, Argentina. A 15-year-old boy saw a disc, 2 meters wide and 60 centimeters thick, resting on three legs. Two men, 1.7 meters tall with semitransparent legs, gave him an envelope, directed him to dip it in a puddle. Neither the envelope, which was later found to contain a nonsense message, nor the boy's hand got wet. Horse and dog temporarily paralyzed. At 2315 the same day, five men examined the traces, which formed a triangle 2 by 1.58 by 1.58 meters, and had just declared them a hoax when a luminous object slowly zig-zagged toward them, forcing them to throw themselves to the ground and flee.

February 7, 1969 (0730), Piraçununga, Brazil. Nineteen-year-old male saw a thin, 4-meter-wide disc with a narrow dome and a total thickness of only 1.5 meters. Two occupants in "diver's suits" with black teeth and one eye lower than the other floated to the ground, while two more were visible inside the disc. Occupant caused a pack of cigarettes to rise 20 centimeters from the ground to meet the outstretched palm of the witness, then caused it to disappear. On departing, occupant "floated a flame" from a "gun" at the witness, causing paralysis and fainting, leaving a red welt on his leg. Three imprints in a 63-centimeter equilateral triangle. Investigators saw a hazy, bluish-white object low in the sky after completing their investigation.

June 26, 1972 (0800), Fort Beaufort, South Africa. Laborer saw smoke in the brush, then a shiny object, later described as 3-by-1-meter, egg-shaped, blue-black, later turning red, with a starlike appendage. The object ducked in and out of the brush while a farmer and two police officers fired 15 shots at it. Three laborers acted as "beaters," trying to flush the object out of the brush for a clean shot. At least one shot hit the object with a solid, metallic sound. Sighting lasted over four hours. Imprints in a triangular pattern, 30 by 30 by 45 centimeters. On the morning of July 6, the farmer again saw the object. He heard two explosions, which ruined a brick and cement reservoir.

March 29, 1966 (1615), Hampton Falls, New Hampshire. Ten-year-old boy saw an angular. brownish, boxlike object, shaped in profile like a squat letter "L" with windows. Object 1.5 meters long, 75 centimeters wide, 75 centimeters high with a dome underneath, resting on tripod legs. Antenna lowered, object released a blast of air, emitted a short sound, lifted 30 centimeters off the ground, spun around clockwise, and settled to the ground. After intermittent "electric" sounds, the object released another blast of air, with sound increasing as the object rose 3 meters vertically, stopped, moved 7 meters horizontally, stopped, spun clockwise 90 degrees, then accelerated straight up and out of sight. Three elongated imprints formed a triangle between 1.5 and 2 meters on a side.

May 18, 1964 (0730), Hubbard, Oregon. A young boy saw a silver-colored, square object, 1.2 meters high, resting on four shiny legs. With a soft beeping sound, it rose slowly to the height of a telephone pole, then "shot up like a rocket." Three imprints formed a 90-centimeter equilateral triangle within a 1–1.2 meter area of wheat flattened from the center. Odor of gas fumes.

November 16, 1973 (1900), Lemon Grove, California. Two boys about 11 years old approached a landed object

and tapped on it with a flashlight. Object described as 6 meters wide, 3 meters high, with a dome on top. The boys' sketch shows four legs. Dome illuminated the area bright red; the object rose 45–75 centimeters, a row of green lights around the rim began to blink in sequence, object began to rotate, making a sound like "wooo-shoooo-wooo-shooo." Rate of rotation became very high, the red light blinked on and off, went out, came back on, and the object rose, still making the sound. The frightened boys began to run, felt chills and a tingly feeling, weak, "like they were running in slow motion." TV interference. Three marks formed a 2-meter equilateral triangle within an area of grass swirled in a counterclockwise pattern.

June 18–19, 1966 (0000 to 0500), Mount Mitchell, North Carolina. Four Boy Scouts saw three pulsating red lights approach and hover for five hours over the trail, 180 meters from their camp. Lights blinked at different speeds, with the center one turning white every fifth pulsation. At sunrise, the object rose above the trees, appearing through binoculars as a red bell with six smaller objects that formed a succession of geometrical formations before they disappeared behind a mountain. Imprint triangle, 1.5 meters on each side. Some tree branches broken.

June 14, 1964 (2100), Dale, Indiana. Eighteen-year-old male saw a flash of light, house power failed. As he approached the basketball-sized light just above the ground 15 meters away, he found he could not move, and had a tingling sensation. The light rose and disappeared. Odor of sulfur or burning rubber. Three imprints formed, a triangle 60 centimeters by 1.37 meters by 1.37 meters.

April 8, 1967, Banner Elk, North Carolina. Two couples of college students saw a greenish, fluorescent flow on the ground about 55 meters from their car. The car motor stopped, could not be restarted, and the radio was flooded with static. The witnesses panicked, then pushed the car to a main road where they were able to restart it. The object suddenly moved toward the car, veered away, and disappeared into a nearby valley.

August 12, 1974 (1130), La Brousse (near Matha), France. A 15-year-old boy saw a disc maneuvering near a hedgerow. He described it as the size of a medium car, dull-lead color, with a green, highly reflective dome. One of three apertures opened "exactly like the shutter of a vanishing headlight on a sports car." The lower part of the object rotated, but the dome did not. Three sharply defined circles of burnt straw formed a triangle 95 by 95 by 80 centimeters within an oval area of crushed straw. The investigator was surprised that the burn marks could be made without setting fire to the entire field. Within each imprint were two small pieces of lead.

Catena I: Flaming Ovals

Irregular, four-sided imprint patterns with major sides from 3.66 to 4.51 meters. Of four cases in this range, three appear to fit this composite: oval-shaped object whose major dimension is 5–7 meters, with flame reported. Burn marks are found among the physical traces. The single occupant case specifies small humanoids. These cases all occurred in the United States, and all in the last part of the month of April. This is the only catena that seems to be tied to a single flap (April 1964). With only three reports, Catena I is the least compelling of the five catenas.

Catena I cases. April 24, 1964 (1745), Socorro, New Mexico. Police officer saw a landed oval object, the size of an auto, resting on legs. Red insignia or structural feature. Two small humanoids. Object flew away with a roar and flame. Imprints formed irregular figure 2.93 by 3.62 by 4.51 by 4.03 meters. Ladder marks, small footprints, four burn marks.

April 26, 1964 (0100), La Madera, New Mexico. Landed object the shape of a butane tank, as long as a telephone pole, 4.3 meters in diameter, shooting blue flames out of the sides near the bottom. Witness went inside to tell his family, but when he returned, the object was gone. Four imprints in pattern "like Socorro" within 11–12 meter scorched circle, still warm and smoking 20 hours later. Bits of melted glass; 9–10 centimeter circular footprints.

April 21, 1967 (2100), South Hill, Virginia. Pewter-colored object shaped like a storage tank, 3.7 meters in diameter, 4.6–4.9 meters high including 90-centimeter to 1.1-meter legs. Object emitted a white burst of flame from the lower part, rose, was "gone in a flash." Four marks form irregular figure with sides 3.35 to 3.66 meters on asphalt road. 90-centimeter spot of road in flames.

Catena V: "Pumpkin Heads"

Four-sided imprint patterns, generally squares and rectangles, with major sides of 3 meters and below; also square patterns to 4 meters. Of 11 cases in this range, eight appear to fit this composite: object shape is domed disc or sphere, luminous, except in daylight, with a major dimension of 5 meters (average). Humming or whistling sounds almost always reported; some reports have indications of exhaust. Occupant height one meter or less, outsized heads or helmets, seen singly or in small groups. Heat effects in physical traces. Threatening action by object, or object or occupant uses force on the witness, usually in an apparent attempt to keep the witness at bay. The object description above is remarkably similar to Jacques Vallee's composite object description from a study of the 1954 wave: "The reported 'craft' are observed under two 'phases': a dark phase, during which they are observed as dull, metallic 'machines' with solid bodies . . . and a bright phase during which they look like 'fiery spheres' . . . the phenomena had a symmetry of revolution and an actual diameter of about five meters."

Catena V cases. February 5, 1971 (1500), Kinnula, Finland. 5-meter domed disc landed on four legs. One 90-centimeter tall occupant with large helmet glided to the ground; three more forms seen inside object. One of the

witnesses started his chain saw, chased the occupant, and received burns when he tried to grab its boot. Object rose vertically with a humming noise. Four imprints formed a 2-meter square in area of slightly melted snow. Circular footprints, 15 centimeters wide.

July 1, 1965 (0530), Valensole, France. Thick domed disc the size of a Renault Dauphine car resting on six legs. Two occupants, human appearance, the size of an 8-year-old child, but with enormous heads; one pointed a tube at the witness and he found himself unable to move. Object rose with a whistling sound at an angle of 45 degrees and vanished, leaving the lavender crop damaged for 100 meters under its path. Four shallow imprints formed a 4-meter square.

September 10, 1954 (2230), Quarouble, France. Object seen as dark mass with lights on railroad tracks. Two occupants, 1 meter tall with enormous helmets. Bright light like magnesium flare paralyzed witness. Object rose vertically 30 meters with a low whistling sound, then flew east, beginning to glow. Imprints on railroad ties formed a four-sided figure with diagonals 90 centimeters and 1.4 meters. Stones brittle as if from heat.

December 6, 1973 (1845), Fabrègues, France. Domed disc on legs with brightly lit "blister" on top, flashing red and white lights around rim, humming sound. Door opened, ladder unrolled. Witnesses fled, and the craft, seen as an orange glow, chased them. Four imprints in 1.30-meter square, with ladder marks. Area appeared "swept" as if by a blast.

March 19, 1972 (2200), Santa María Acuexcomac, Mexico. Glowing blue sphere landed, rose giving off blue sparks and a humming sound. Four imprints formed 2.5-meters square with central burn mark.

July 25, 1970 (1730), Jabreilles-les-Bordes, France. Landed domed disc, 6 meters in diameter, 3 meters high on four legs. Witness blinded by yellow-orange light beam; paralyzed by beam or fright. As object rose with whistling sound, witness felt wave of heat. At 100 meters altitude, object "jumped" vertically and disappeared behind a mountain. Four imprints formed irregular figure 2.66 by 2.64 by 2.25 by 1.47 meters on hillside.

September 27, 1954 (2030), Prémanon, France. Hovering object seen as big red luminous ball, swaying gently. Two occupants described as rectangular beings "like sugar lumps." Child threw pebbles at occupant, was thrown to ground by an "ice-cold invisible force." Four imprints formed square within 3.66-meter circular area of grass flattened counterclockwise.

July 2, 1953 (1300), Villares del Saz, Spain. Landed "metallic water jug" 1.3 meters high, 30 centimeters in diameter, glowing slightly. Whistling sound. Three occupants 65 centimeters tall emerged, one of which slapped the young witness' face, reentered machine, which rose vertically, glowing brightly. Others reported gray spherical object. Four imprints in 36 centimeter square; small footprints. ✦

THE CIA, THE U-2, AND UFOS

In the mid-1990s, government historian Gerald K. Haines was given access to the CIA's UFO files, and he wrote a monograph that examined the CIA's involvement in UFO investigation and government policy from 1947 until 1990. An unclassified version of the report was published in *Studies in Intelligence* in 1997, and it received widespread media attention (you can read it at www.cia.gov/csi/studies/97unclass/ufo.html). The media focused especially on Haines's claim that many UFO sightings in the late 1950s and 1960s were actually misidentified secret American spy planes, such as the fabled U-2.

I reviewed his monograph, particularly the evidence for misidentified spy planes, in *IUR* ("The CIA's UFO History," Fall 1997, pp. 3–6, 36), and found this assertion completely lacking credibility or evidence. Haines listed two sources for his statement. One was a classified study by Gregory W. Pedlow and Donald E. Welzenbach, *The U-2 and OXCART Programs, 1954–1974* (1992). Because it was classified, it couldn't be reviewed. The second was a telephone interview he had with John Parongosky (who oversaw the OXCART program), whom I was unable to locate. Therefore, documentation for the allegation that U-2 flights caused many UFO reports was completely absent from the public record.

A couple of years ago, the monograph by Pedlow and Welzenbach was declassified (though there are still portions that are redacted), which allowed me to see what verification these authors had for the U-2 as UFO hypothesis (see their report at www.cia.gov/csi/books/U2/u2.pdf). Pedlow and Welzenbach state, at the conclusion of their short two-page section on "U-2s, UFOs, and Operation [*sic*] Blue Book" that "U-2 and later OXCART flights accounted for more than one-half of all UFO reports during the late 1950s and most of the 1960s." Of course, this statement is laughable, as I demonstrated in my earlier *IUR* article.

The reference for this absurd claim is in a footnote that states, "Information supplied by James Cunningham to Donald E. Welzenbach." Cunningham was the administrative officer for the U-2 program and later became the deputy director of the Office of Special Activities and special assistant to the deputy director for science and technology. Nevertheless, there is no indication that he supplied documentary proof to Welzenbach about this matter (nor have any documents been found in the Blue Book records or UFO documents released by the CIA to support the claim).

So now we know that the sensational claim that over half of all UFO reports in the late 1950s and 1960s were caused by misidentified spy planes is based not on any solid evidence—government documents and reports—but on the unverifiable statements of two individuals who were directly connected to the spy-plane programs. Given the history of CIA involvement with UFOs, statements by CIA personnel cannot be taken at face value. Certainly, any responsible historian would want more evidence than this to pass along such a bold claim in print.—*Mark Rodeghier*

UFOs in Canada, 2003

BY MARK RODEGHIER

For the past 15 years, Ufology Research of Manitoba (UFOROM), under the direction of Geoff Dittman and Chris Rutkowski, has compiled a report of UFO sightings in Canada from the previous year. The scope and depth of information contained in their annual report, which also provides comparisons for the full 15 year time period, is almost unmatched by other national UFO organizations. Certainly none in the United States produce a similar report.

In this article, I review the 2003 report, as I've done in previous years in *IUR* (Winter 2001–2002, pp. 15–17; Summer 1999, pp. 23–26; Summer 1997, p. 31–35). I will summarize the sighting data for the past year, compare it to earlier years, and list a few of the best Canadian sightings in 2003. Those who would like to view the complete report can do so at www.geocities.com/Area51/Rampart/2653/.

Collecting Canadian UFO reports

To provide some background to the effort involved in collecting UFO reports from across Canada, I quote from the 2003 report:

> Many individuals, associations, clubs and groups claim to investigate UFO reports. Many solicit reports from the general public. Comparatively few actually participate in any kind of information sharing or data gathering for scientific programs. Some are primarily interest groups based in museums, planetariums, church basements or individuals' homes, and do essentially *nothing* with the sighting reports they receive. Because there is no way to enforce standards in UFO report investigations, the quality of case investigations varies considerably between groups and across provinces. Quantitative studies are difficult because subjective evaluations and differences in investigative techniques do not allow precise comparisons. UFOROM's requests for data from Canadian UFO researchers and investigators include only basic information that can be used in rigourous analyses. This includes things such as date of the sighting, the time, duration, number of witnesses and their location—facts which are not subjective and can be used in scientific studies before interpretation.
>
> Until 1995, the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) routinely collected UFO reports from private citizens, RCMP, civic police and military personnel. This collection of data was in support of the NRC's interest in the retrieval of meteorites, with the idea that witnesses' reports of bright lights in the sky were mostly fireballs and meteors which could then be triangulated to locate fallen meteorites. (In fact, the Innisfree meteorite was found in Alberta through this system.)
>
> This practice ceased as a result of budgetary restrictions, lowered prioritization of meteoric research and the perceived reduction in importance of UFO data. However, included among the NRC reports were many observations of meteors and fireballs, and these have been added into the UFOROM database since 1989. For several years, the collection of such reports was in an effective hiatus, but in 2000, an arrangement facilitated that UFO sightings reported to Transport Canada could then be referred to UFOROM for research into the phenomenon. This does not mean that UFOROM receives all official government or military UFO reports. UFO sightings reported to the RCMP, for example, will normally get sent only to RCMP Divisional Headquarters.

It is encouraging that UFOROM receives reports from Transport Canada. Such an arrangement with a U.S. government agency seems inconceivable today.

UFOs and IFOs

The Canadian UFO database contains both UFO and IFO reports. It is worth quoting at length from the report's explanation of why IFOs are included in the total database:

> The issue of including IFOs in studies of UFO data is an important one. One could argue that once a sighting is

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explained, it has no reason to be considered as a UFO report. However, this overlooks the fact that the IFO was originally reported as a UFO and is indeed valid data. It may not be evidence of extraterrestrial visitation, but as UFO data, it is quite useful. It must be remembered that all major previous studies of UFOs examined UFO reports with the intent to explain a certain percentage of cases. These cases were the IFOs—definitely part of the UFO report legacy.

IFOs are problematic in that they are not interesting to most ufologists. In fact, some UFO investigators readily admit they do not record details about UFO reports that seem easily explained as ordinary objects. This may be a serious error. The UFO witness may be conscientiously reporting an object that is mysterious to him or her—the exact definition of a UFO. Therefore, even late-night, anonymous telephone calls that are obviously reports of airplanes or planets should be rightly logged as UFO reports. It seems reasonable that all UFO reports be included in statistical databases and in later studies on the phenomenon, regardless of the cases= later reclassification as IFOs.

The IFO question became more significant in 2003 as many more fireball and meteor reports than usual were added as data from astronomical sources. Brilliant fireballs have always been included within UFO data, especially the American military studies, and have been included in the UFOROM annual studies as a matter of course and to allow better comparisons with historical studies. As fireball reporting networks become more efficient, however, the number of IFOs in the UFO database increases dramatically. Many fireballs are reported as UFOs and are thus justifiably included in the UFO database. Others that are reported as fireballs and bolides might not be considered appropriate for inclusion, and this problem should be addressed in later analyses.

Canadian reports in 2003

There were 673 UFO reports compiled by UFOROM in 2003. This is an increase of about 39% over the number of reports in 2002. However, as the report's authors note:

> The large number of UFO reports in 1993 was almost entirely due to a single major fireball event which spawned reports by hundreds of independent observers across the country. Similarly, the dramatic increase in UFO reports for 2003 is partly due to a single major event on July 28, 2003, in the Okanagan Valley, in which literally hundreds of people observed and reported seeing a band of white light arching across the sky. This spectacular sight was certainly not a fireball but may still eventually have a conventional explanation.

Of the reports in 2003, 64% are nocturnal lights, somewhat more than normal, probably because of the fireball event. Only 11% were daylight disks, Allen Hynek's classification for solid appearing objects that are seen in daylight. Fully 87% of the sightings occurred at night, which is typical for sightings from the U.S. and elsewhere. (In the 1950s and 1960s, a greater proportion of sightings occurred during the day.) Less than 3% of cases were close encounters of some type. Close encounters have always been a small fraction of reports, whether in the 1950s or today. The most common UFO report is of a point source of light in the night sky: a nocturnal light.

The number of unexplained reports in 2003 was 111, or 16.5%, a bit higher than other years. When only high-quality cases are considered (they must have a reliability rating of 7 or greater on a 9-point scale), only 28 cases remain, or about 4%. This figure is typical of other large-scale studies of UFOs from both civilian and government organizations. The number of high quality, truly unexplained UFO sightings is a small, but non-vanishing, fraction of all UFO reports.

Although extensive details are not provided, the 2003 report includes brief accounts of some of the more interesting, and reliable, unknowns from last year in Canada, most of which are listed here.

January 31, 2003, 10:30 p.m., Villeneuve, Alberta. Two witnesses watched a large, white object, described as "two saucers rim to rim," move slowly through a farm yard and over some houses, then out of sight.

February 12, 2003, 9:02 p.m., Vancouver, British Columbia. A dark triangular craft with some sort of structured undercarriage was seen to fly silently over the city. It was in view for three minutes by two witnesses.

February 19, 2003, 9:20 a.m., Raymore, Saskatchewan. A fast-moving silvery object, "like a cruise missile," flew swiftly across snow-covered fields east of Regina, heading north.

March 3, 2003, 7:55 a.m., Houston, British Columbia. The driver and passenger of a truck traveling along a highway watched as a silver object the size and shape of "an Airstream trailer" flew alongside them, then zoomed away.

July 7, 2003, 10:30 p.m., Verdun, Quebec. A witness watched a gray, teardrop-shaped object moving slowly at low altitude over rooftops, making an unusual whirring sound.

August 6, 2003, 12:32 a.m., North Bay, Ontario. Three witnesses watched as a gray, cigar-shaped object, stationary in the sky, became "wavy" and then suddenly disappeared from view after five minutes.

August 10, 2003, 2:22 p.m., Whitehorse, Yukon. A large fuselage-shaped object flew low along a road, under some guy wires, and among trees.

August 23, 2003, 6:45 p.m., Winnipeg, Manitoba. Three witnesses observed a saucer-shaped object with "protrusions" for 30 seconds as it flew over some cars on a highway.

September 21, 2003, Whitehorse, Yukon. A triangular object with red lights flew over a pair of witnesses.

December 8, 2003, 8:45 p.m., Houston, British Columbia. An unusual white, oval object with a ring of blue lights hovered overtop a house, dropping sparks, then flew steadily towards the mountains and was lost to sight.

December 24, 2003, 1:00 p.m., Airdrie, Alberta. Three people watched a chrome-colored "marble" hanging motionless in the sky. After about 15 seconds, it vanished without a trace.

In none of these reports is there evidence that the UFO left any physical trace. Nor are there any cases with reported interference with vehicles or other equipment. Continuing a long-term trend in both Canada and other countries, there were no unexplained reports with humanoids. But some of the unidentified reports do involve close encounters, where the UFO came within 500 feet or so of the witnesses (within their frame of reference).

Canadian reports, 1989–2003

I next present a comparison of the sightings for the full 15 years the Canadian UFO survey has been completed. Figure 1 depicts the number of UFO reports by year since 1989. There are two spikes, or outliers, in the yearly figures. Both of them, in 1993 and 2003, were caused by major fireball-like events that led to hundreds of reports across Canada. So with those exceptions, 2002 probably represents the greatest number of reports from unique sightings since the survey began.

Even if we ignore the fireball events, there is a definite trend toward an increasing number of reports over the 15-year period. This could be caused by an actual increase in the UFO phenomenon, which would be interesting, but there is another possible explanation. Cooperation with UFOROM has been increasing since the survey was begun in 1989. As a consequence, we should observe a slow but steady increase in reports over time, and that is roughly what we see in Figure 1. I tend to favor this alternate explanation because this same trend—toward increasing sighting numbers—has not been reported for sightings in the United States (although admittedly, the statistics are not as accurate or comprehensive here).

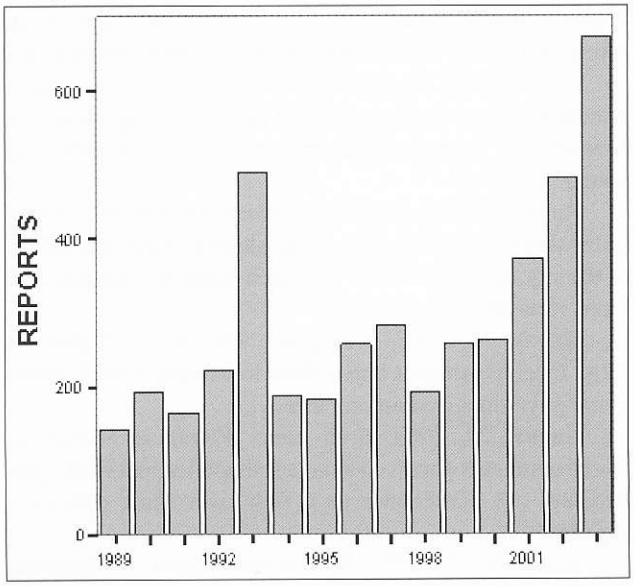


Fig. 1. UFO sightings by year in Canada, 1989–2003.

Another indication that the number of true UFOs (to quote ufologist Bruce Maccabee) has not been rising can be found from the number of close encounter reports (excluding abductions, which are few in number and more problematic). These reports are less likely to be easily explained. Figure 2 shows these data (1994 and 1995 are combined), and we can immediately see that there is no increase over time; if anything, there has been a bit of a decrease. For those who appreciate statistics, there is essentially no correlation between the yearly number of all reports and close encounter cases ($r = .10$, $p = .738$). Although I don't discount other types of sightings, the close encounter cases lead me to the conclusion that the UFO phenomenon has been rather steady over time in Canada.

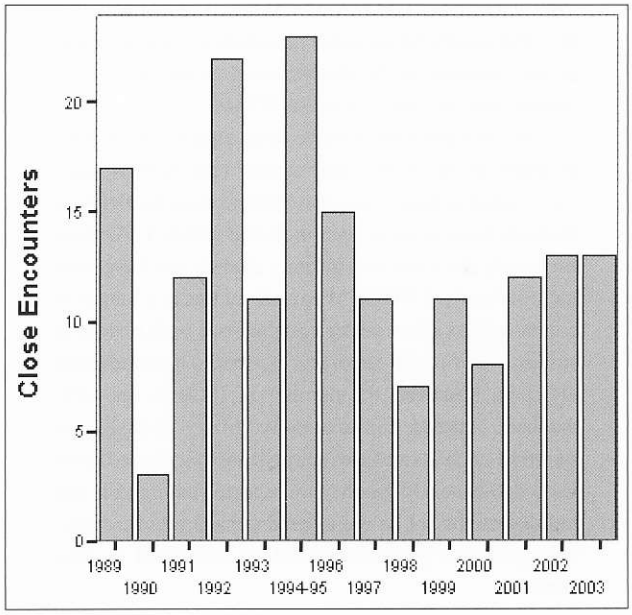


Fig. 2. Close encounter UFO sightings by year in Canada, 1989–2003.

Of course, we could readily argue that UFOs have become more numerous, but appear higher in the sky and more distant from the witnesses. If so, the number of close encounter cases might not change much, but the total reports *would* increase. Although there is no evidence for this hypothesis, it can't be ruled out. As is usual in ufology, there are multiple explanations for any particular pattern we find.

To further complicate matters, we can look briefly at the number of high-quality sightings classified as unknowns. Only cases with enough information to rule out a conventional explanation are assigned to the unknown category by Dittman and Rutkowski. Figure 3 displays these sightings by year, where we observe a new pattern with two broad peaks, in the mid-90s and today. The number of unknowns in 2002 and 2003 is as great or greater than any other year.

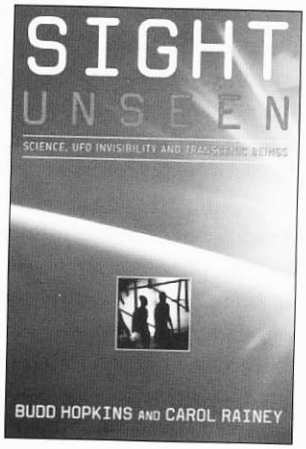
(continued on page 27)

SPOOKY PLAUSIBILITY: A REVIEW OF *SIGHT UNSEEN*

BY CRAIG R. LANG

Budd Hopkins and Carol Rainey, *Sight Unseen: Science, UFO Invisibility and Transgenic Beings.* New York: Atria Books/Simon and Schuster, 2003. 406p. $25.00.

The UFO and close encounter literature contains many works that attempt to develop an understanding of the UFO/CE4 phenomenon. Some take a mystical or metaphysical approach. Others explore the psychological (or even parapsychological) aspects of UFO encounters. Still others examine the physics and technological components of the phenomenon.



Several authors, among them David Jacobs, John Mack, and Raymond Fowler, as well as Budd Hopkins, have developed a detailed picture (or model) of the UFO abduction phenomenon. They have collectively attempted to build hypotheses about the agenda and motivation behind the UFO/CE4 phenomenon. In addition, they have identified a number of key physical effects and technologies which abductees describe as core to the phenomenon.

One criticism of their views on UFO abductions has been that they lack a solid scientific-explanatory foundation. To date in the popular literature, exploration of possible physical and/or technological underpinnings of the abduction phenomenon has been limited. Many claim that science and technology as we know them today are insufficient to explain many aspects of UFO/CE4 events. Or, to put it another way, "How do they do it?"

In the past, at least one book, *Unconventional Flying Objects* by Paul Hill, has attempted to address this problem, at least from the point of view of externally observed UFO dynamics. Paul Hill focuses upon the apparent physics of UFO flight and other characteristics. But for the most part, the scientific and technological aspects of the abduction issue itself have not been sufficiently addressed. So it was with great anticipation that I picked up the new book by Budd Hopkins and his wife, Carol Rainey.

In *Sight Unseen,* the authors offer insights into the scientific plausibility of the UFO/CE4 phenomenon, a chilling view of what the phenomenon seems to be doing, and a glimmer of understanding as to why this might be happening. The book is formatted in a unique and interesting way. It alternates between one or more chapters written by Hopkins describing key aspects of encounter cases that he has researched; and chapters written by Rainey, describing possible scientific and/or engineering concepts that might provide insight.

UFO INVISIBILITY

The book begins with an examination of several cases in Hopkins's files showing how the phenomenon can exhibit selective invisibility. These are fascinating glimpses into the effect of the phenomenon on our consensus reality—specifically, the idea of temporary invisibility, both of the UFO and of human beings that in some way come into contact with the phenomenon—often referred to as "spontaneous human invisibility."

Hopkins describes several abduction cases in which the associated UFO was in or over highly populated areas, yet remained unseen by all except perhaps the experiencers themselves. In one case, some children playing in their home were apparently abducted. While gone, their parents realized they were missing and launched a frantic search for them. Once their abduction had ended, they were returned to their original location with no knowledge of the intervening events. (This is a classic description of the CE4 phenomenon.) They suddenly and innocently resumed their lives, appearing to their surprised parents in a way that was at once mysterious and baffling.

Hopkins uses this case to illustrate a key point—the UFO should have been clearly visible, but it apparently remained unobserved. He then examines similar cases, such as one in which Air Force personnel were apparently taken from the middle of a military airbase. He also examines one in which two children were apparently abducted from the

top floors of their house, and were returned at the bottom of the outside basement stairs—in a way that might otherwise have appeared to be a long, dangerous fall. In these and several other cases, Hopkins presents details to establish the UFO-invisibility aspects of the encounters.

In the chapter "Uncovering clues to the Science of Invisibility," Rainey then begins to explore how the phenomenon of UFO invisibility might work. She explores several ideas, including some examined by Paul Hill. She refers to current or potential stealth technology, as well as optical plasma effects, adaptive camouflage, and other types of electromagnetic effects. She extrapolates these present-day concepts and suggests that some of these ideas offer a precedent for a possible physics of the UFO phenomenon. She admits that UFO technologies are probably far beyond the present-day technology she describes. Thus, in the end, her examination of how UFOs can become invisible ends up with the somewhat unsatisfying conclusion of "I don't know."

Human invisibility

Hopkins then goes on to describe cases in which people associated with apparent abductions are also rendered invisible for periods of time. One case he describes is that of Katharina Wilson—a well-known abductee—who has a missing-time episode in what may be one of the most populous locations in modern life, O'Hare Airport in Chicago. During the event, Wilson found that when she was in the ladies washroom, people around her could not see her. In addition, the photosensor-activated faucets did not sense the presence of her hands under the spigot. In the end, she was able to find a sink with a mechanical faucet that she could use. This implies that a physical process occurred that affected both humans and machines. It also shows that she was able to interact mechanically with her environment, and thus was fully present in our physical reality.

In the next chapter, Rainey discusses possible physical concepts, such as blackbody radiation and quantum teleportation, which might help us to wrap our scientific arms around what might have happened to Wilson. Yet in the end, Rainey admits that we can do little more than speculate about what might be behind the phenomenon of human invisibility.

In her analysis of Wilson's experience, Rainey describes research into the technology underlying the faucet's photosensors, which did not respond to her presence. Rainey examines a number of logical explanations for the failure, given that the sensors responded to others in the rest room. Rainey further explores such physical concepts as blackbody radiation, which she claims can help us understand this experience. In the end, she suggests that this would only partially explain the experience. While some change to the blackbody-radiation properties of a human being might help us understand the problem with the faucets, this would not explain her invisibility.

Rainey then goes on to examine ideas such as quantum teleportation, which can help us envision how the Visitors might be able to snatch away and return an experiencer from a crowded airport terminal. She describes (again in a very arm-wavy sort of way) some contemporary research in quantum nonlocality. She suggests that these ideas could be extrapolated to imagine a quantum teleportation device reminiscent of teleporters in *Star Trek*. In this area, I think she is getting much closer to the truth, though she admits (and I agree) that we still know very little about this fascinating new area of physics.

Not being close to the Katharina Wilson case, or the other cases that Hopkins presents, I must assume that the investigations were done with thoroughness, and that documentation is available to further establish the facts of the case. In the end, a skeptical reader will naturally require such evidence to establish the validity of any of these cases.

As I read this section I noticed (to her credit) that, even given the out-of-the-box nature of this topic, Rainey tends to keep her speculations relatively conservative, with a solid foundation in the physical sciences. However, I wondered if she had just ranged a bit further afield, she might have found phenomena in various Eastern traditions that are similar to these exotic aspects of the UFO/CE4 phenomenon? For example, researchers such as Donna Higbee (see members.aol.com/Rapunz1/DH_index.html) have also written about the spontaneous invisibility phenomenon, and hinted at ways of understanding it that may be completely outside the framework of Western scientific understanding. Traditional effects of lifelong Eastern meditative practices include phenomena known as siddhis. These are described in John McAfee's *Beyond the Siddhis: Supernatural Powers and the Sutras of Patanjali* (Woodland, 2001).

Another question I kept asking as I read this section of the book was, how many other UFO and abduction researchers have such cases in their files? The Minnesota MUFON case files contain several accounts of UFO invisibility, and even a few of human invisibility. (See my article "Spontaneous Invisibility: The Mystery We Can Not See," online at home.comcast.net/~lang.craig/spont_invis.htm.) It would be fascinating to learn if more cases, from the files of other researchers, would reinforce or contradict some of the speculations that Rainey offers.

Transgenic beings

The invisibility cases portrayed by Hopkins and Rainey are intriguing enough, but in *Sight Unseen* they are just the beginning. The authors then go on to explore another fascinating aspect of the phenomenon that has been largely ignored in the UFO literature—that of human-appearing beings that seem to be moving among us. (See my article "Human Aliens: Close Encounters of the Third Kind in Our Every Day World," online at home.comcast.net/~lang.craig/hu_alien.htm.)

(continued on page 26)

TAKEN DOWN UNDER (PART 2): THE AUSTRALIAN ABDUCTION EXPERIENCE

BY BILL CHALKER

In Part 1 of this article (IUR, Summer 2003, pp. 21–26), the author reviewed the early investigations and reports of abductions in Australia. He continues this history with an examination of events, cases, and other developments from 1988 to the present.

PHASE 3: 1988–1990—THE COMMUNION PHASE

In 1987, two books about abductions—*Communion* by Whitley Strieber and *Intruders* by Budd Hopkins—were bestsellers in the United States. These books thrust the subject into mainstream consciousness. I was lecturing on the Australian UFO experience at the MUFON conference in Washington, D.C., in late June 1987. One could sense that the UFO landscape had been transformed and abductions were taking center stage. While there, I was able to talk with both Hopkins and Strieber to get their respective takes on the abduction phenomenon. It was clear to me that while Australia so far had only a small number of cases, things were not going to remain that way if abductions were a real "hidden phenomenon."

Communion initially had a far bigger effect in Australia than *Intruders*. Thus began what I perceive as Phase 3 of the Australian abduction experience, which I label the "Communion" phase, from 1988 to 1990.

The following case, which I examined over a long period beginning in 1988, was a key event during this phase. Strieber passed it on to me for further investigation. Around late 1976, a woman in her early 30s had a strange experience. She was engaged in vacuuming the house at about midday. She was suddenly overcome by a feeling of sickness and near-fainting, and decided to steady herself by sitting down on her lounge. It was then she noticed three strange figures in front of her—"three little beings." One, which the witness somehow understood to be female, was about five feet tall. It was slender with a very elongated face. The other two, instinctively understood to be male, were much shorter with chubby, broad faces. All three beings had large eyes and the slightest hint of what may have been noses and mouths. Each was wearing a shroud-like cloak. The taller figure was in black, and the two smaller ones in brown. Both entity types had wispy bits of hair at the backs of their heads. In the case of the ostensible female, the hair was black; the others had brown hair.

The taller figure began to communicate with the woman, not verbally, but apparently mentally, telling her that she had to go with them. Although the being continued to insist, the woman refused. Eventually this "female" figure indicated the woman could leave, so she got up from the couch and began to crawl toward the front door. This proved very difficult, as she was moving as if in slow motion. When the witness reached the front door, the beings seemed to pull her back "with their minds." They continued to tell her that she had to go with them, but she refused. Once again, they told her she could leave. Again she crawled up the hallway. This time her husband appeared to be there, and the witness clung to him desperately. She had a strong recollection of the smell of the pure wool jumper he was wearing. However, the beings "just tore" her out of his arms and pulled her back to the couch again "by force of mind." They said she would go with them and it was useless to fight.

The next thing the woman remembered was hearing her husband's car pulling up out front. He came into the house, but the visitors were gone. Eventually, she was reassured that it really was her husband this time. By then it was 5:30 p.m. More than five hours had passed, of which she could at first recollect only about 30 minutes to one hour. The woman was most disturbed by the thought that her two young children were in the backyard playing the entire time. They were unaware of what had happened. Her husband did not witness anything except for the woman's profound fear.

Years later, the woman was advised by her sister to read Whitley Strieber's book *Communion* because of similarities to what she had experienced years earlier. The hardcover edition was published in Australia late in 1987. Although the figure shown on the cover of *Communion* was not quite the same as that of the American edition, the woman was prompted to write to Strieber. On February 20, 1988, Strieber rang me to tell me the basic details about this and some other Australian events. He indicated he had asked the witness to write to me. A letter from the woman followed outlining her 1976 experience as well as another that took place about 1959 that she had with her sister. The latter

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experience involved a strange "tunnel" of brilliant light that illuminated them while they were on the way to the movies.

A number of phone interviews followed that expanded on the 1976 experience and also uncovered some other unusual recollections of an out-of-the-body type. In September 1988, the woman and her husband came to Sydney where an extensive interview occurred at my home. This revealed further details and established an extensive sequence of interesting events throughout her life, which may or may not be of relevance to the investigation of her 1976 experience.

At about age four, on holiday, she woke up during the night aware of a strange smell. Between ages four and eight, a semi-triangular mark—alluded to within the family as her "freckle"—appeared overnight. It is interesting to note that as my investigation began, this mark, which had been with her all her life, started to fade to a point were it was virtually unnoticeable. As mentioned above, she and her sister saw a strange "tunnel of light" effect during 1959. Her family had a shared UFO sighting, but she missed out, as she was in one of her trances again. Other events that may be of interest included "a vivid dream" or "astral" traveling to London, "a near death" type experience (superficially) while under anesthetic during dental surgery, and an interesting out-of-body-experience in the hospital involving a little boy who "came" to her bed and asked for her help. She became disoriented and "slipped" off the bed and "floated" in an OOBE state. It was subsequently determined that a little boy had died around this time in the hospital (the exact timing was not determined).

Additionally, the witness and her husband experienced a head-on collision with a car "that didn't happen." The two headlights of the phantom car seemed to pass through theirs. She also had a premonition of a plane crash. She had a vision of seeing a light plane crash into a body of water. A peculiar aspect of the vision was that she was seeing it through someone else's eyes—a man's eyes. The crash did occur. She experienced vivid impressions on occasions lasting for a few seconds and occasional flying dreams.

At this time (1988), I had been undertaking reviews of hypnotic procedures and protocols, and assessing the suitability of the procedure and potential hypnotherapists. I was concerned about the possible leading and biased nature of many of the UFO abduction regressions undertaken to date. Dr. Richard Haines, a highly regarded researcher, made available to me his detailed procedures defining his "three-stage technique" designed to help reduce biasing effects during hypnotic regression. It seemed to me that Haines's protocol provided the basis of a satisfactory method that addressed my long-held concerns about the utility and legitimacy of hypnotic intervention in missing-time and abduction reports. Until then, I had felt that there were valid concerns about utilizing hypnotic procedures in these cases.

Accordingly, I secured the services of a qualified clinical psychologist who specialized in clinical hypnotherapy. She did not have a detailed knowledge of the UFO subject and also held no strong opinions about the case for or against UFO reality. She had no strong determination to arrive at a position regarding the reality of abduction experiences, but was instead more interested in the phenomenon from the perspective of whether a therapeutic benefit could be achieved, irrespective of the nature of the abduction episodes.

The psychologist was pleased to support my protocols, namely that our involvement with experiencers was being conducted on the basis of being largely witness-driven and that our first priority was the welfare of the people concerned. The second priority or goal was to gather any research information. Should there be any potential conflict between the two priorities, protocol would ensure that the second goal would be ignored to insure that the well-being of the witness was paramount.

In the case I described above, the woman was keen to utilize hypnotic regression, primarily to improve her recollection of what the beings looked like. She was not greatly disturbed about the incident and really only wanted to resolve it to her satisfaction, as it had always been a nagging mystery for her. She was counseled before regression not to expect anything revelatory or become enmeshed in any particular aspect. She was advised that the technique was not an automatic pathway to accurate recollection, and that it was susceptible to fantasy and imagination.

The woman's husband and I sat in on the regression at her request. We were both silent observers. The session revealed little beyond her conscious recollection, other than small clarifications of the entities' appearance, a brief impression of being outside, "floating feelings," looking out a window, a feeling of strong pressure on her forehead, an impression of some kind of object "like a bolt, with a nut, attached to a cord," plus other fragmentary recollections. She started to become uncomfortable with the experience and the session was ended. Her main objective with the session had been to try to confirm her impressions of what the beings looked like. It was clear that this was a stumbling block to the further unfettered progression of the hypnosis. She found focusing on the beings' appearance frightening and did not want to continue. The psychologist and I respected her wishes and undertook no further sessions.

Since then, I have kept in contact with her. She is still puzzled by her experience. Her conscious memory remains clear and consistent. Of the various images she has come across since then she was most struck by the Wandjina aboriginal rock paintings. Considering their haunting appearance and the dominance of their large dark eyes and absence of a mouth, you can perhaps understand why.

Whitley Strieber came to Australia in October 1988 and asked to meet with the witness. A meeting was arranged, which I sat in on. I came away satisfied that the meeting would not bias any subsequent regression work.

Strieber was to write in *Transformation*, his 1988 sequel to *Communion*, that the woman's experience was "the best description of the gray beings" he had received,

from the thousands of letters that followed the publication of his first book on the subject. He again referred to this experience in his 1995 book *Breakthrough*, when he was struggling with the possible negative nature of the "visitor experience." He described this case as one of the most compelling negative letters he had received. He suggests that the noise of the woman's vacuum cleaner may have somehow prevented the disabling sonic attack often used to render people unconscious, thereby allowing her a clear and conscious awareness of the beings' presence. Strieber was deeply disturbed by "the bullying, the compulsion, the cruel and extremely clever deceits" of the visitors revealed in this case. He speculates that the reason for this revolves around the aspect of "forcible abduction." Her resistance led to the beings' negative behavior. While Strieber has reconciled this aspect in his own mind, there are many who cannot embrace it, and just as many perhaps who have no need to because their experiences are more positive. It is a puzzling and frustrating issue for which answers at this point are uncertain, while we still need to grapple with questions of the reality of these experiences.

One aspect of the 1976 case was to become very significant. It also represented the main reason why Strieber regarded this case as the best description of the gray beings he had come across. That element was the presence of hair on the little beings. He told me that he had deliberately withheld that detail from his descriptions of the visitors in *Communion* to see if anybody mentioned it. This Australian case was the only one that did. The image of the bald gray alien, however, was indelibly imprinted on popular consciousness as what aliens were supposed to look like. In retrospect it becomes a moot point as to whether the prominence of hairless gray aliens in the reports of abductions around the world is a consequence of the sociological impact of the Strieber alien image from *Communion*, or if it is due to interactions with real aliens; if the latter, the few reports of aliens with hair, either the so-called Nordic human-looking beings or gray beings with wispy hair, are possibly just an analog of the variants we see in our own society.

Either way, hair would eventually feature in an extraordinary way in the abduction milieu that developed around a Sydney man, Peter Khoury. For the moment, we will address the 1988 experience that drew him into the alien abduction controversy:

> On the 12th July, 1988, I had an experience which changed my life. While . . . lying on my bed, I felt something grab my ankles. As I felt this, a strange numbness, tingling and churning sensation crawled up through my body and right up to my head. I was paralyzed, I could not move any part of my body but for the exception of my eyes, which I could move, open or close. My brain was functioning but I could not do anything physically. I tried to call out to family members but I could not force the words out. At this stage I started to panic thinking I would not walk again. I thought I was truly paralyzed.
>
> All of a sudden I looked to my right side and I could see 3 or 4 figures wearing dark robes with hoods on their heads. Their faces were very wrinkled and shiny dark black in color. They were only about 3 to 4 feet in height. It was then that communication was made telepathically. There was no sound made yet I could hear the message in my mind. I was told not to worry and I would not be harmed and to relax. As I moved my eyes and looked to the left side I noticed two beings who looked so different to the others. These two were thin, tall with big black eyes and a narrow chin. They were goldish yellow in color. The one closest to my head communicated with me telepathically, telling me not to worry, it would be like the last time. He looked at me with those big black eyes and I could feel the emotion through them. It was the eyes that expressed these feelings. You could see the smile in the eyes.
>
> It was at this stage that I noticed a long needle-like flexible crystal tube. The being then pointed the needle to the top left side of my head and inserted it. It was then that I blanked out. The next thing I remember I was conscious. I jumped out of bed like a flash. I walked into the TV room where my dad and brother were. I noticed they were asleep. I woke my brother up—he looked dazed and lost. As he put it he felt switched off. I asked him how long it had been since I went to my room. He replied about 10 minutes, which was how long I thought it had been. When I left the TV room a film was just starting yet as I spoke to my brother we realized that the TV station was closed and at least 1 to 2 hours had passed by.
>
> The next day I spoke to my [fiancée] Vivian. I explained to her what had happened through the night. As I touched the spot where the needle was inserted I discovered some dried blood under my fingernail. Vivian took a closer look and noticed a puncture hole and blood. I went to my family doctor and asked for a check up. The doctor spotted the puncture mark instantly and commented that I must have hit my head on a nail at work. When I tried to explain what had happened I was laughed at. I had nowhere to go for help, no one to discuss the incident with. It was frustrating to experience something so bizarre, so strange, yet so real.
>
> I ask you all to think about the situation abductees are in. What if you became a victim of the same circumstances? Wouldn't you want someone to listen to you and feel confident in the fact that the people you are reporting your experience to understand and support you. I ask you once again to be open minded to the fact that there are many individuals experiencing this phenomenon throughout the world.

It takes a lot of courage to come out and tell a story like this. It takes strength of character to go the greater step in

trying to help others in similar circumstances. Peter and other people like him are to be encouraged to follow their convictions. Researchers have no exclusive mandate on the right approach, but can offer advice, perspective, and—perhaps where appropriate—a critical comment to keep experiencers from getting caught up beyond their depth in the less desirable aspects of the fringe UFO culture. Because of his own experience and the problems he found as he tried to explore the nature and reality behind it, Peter Khoury eventually established a support group for people like himself, the UFO Experience Support Association (UFOESA) based in Sydney (www.ufoesa.com). It emerged out of frustrations with the formal UFO group structure. It describes itself as "a non-profit, voluntary organization dedicated to helping witnesses and experiencers of UFO events cope with and understand their encounters."

In 1989, I got involved in a detailed retrospective investigation of a 1978 abduction case from New Zealand. Across the Tasman Sea, starting in late 1977, something extraordinary had been unfolding around Gisborne, New Zealand. The recently formed Gisborne Aerial Phenomena Research Group (APRG) had started off like most groups, collecting sporadic testimony.

All that changed for Hamish McLean of APRG when he responded to an anonymous call about a UFO landing in the Waimata Valley on November 29, 1977. When he arrived at about 10:15 a.m., McLean could see nothing unusual. However, further on he spotted "a large bowler hat–shaped craft" hovering over a hill about 150 meters away. McLean says he stopped his car and got out. The object allegedly sped towards him, stopping about 60 meters away. It hovered for about three minutes. It had an unusual appearance. The top section was a fluorescent pink/red, with two prominent features—a white and purple boomerang-shaped feature decorated with unusual symbols, and below it a dark gray rectangular panel. What looked like four hazy cylinders of green light, with a denser helical pattern inside, were located under a dark blue, metallic, horizontal rim. A bright beam of blue light was emitted from the craft and illuminated a nearby dead tree trunk. The tree trunk (a Monterey cypress or *Cupressus macrocarpa*) fluoresced "like a Christmas tree" through a range of colors, for about seven seconds, stopping when the light beam went out.

The UFO moved away, stopped again, then traveled behind the hill, reappearing at its original position. As it remained in this position McLean left to get another group member. By the time they returned the UFO was gone. Nothing out of the ordinary was reported during a subsequent inspection of the tree trunk. There was no reported attempt to examine fragments with analytical equipment.

Numerous reports followed, some seemingly of the same object observed by McLean. Activity largely petered out by the end of December 1977. Then there was a resurgence of activity with the highlight being a possible abduction episode. On March 11–12, 1978, three young women had gone to the UFO-haunted Waimata Valley, near Gisborne, for a night of "UFO watching." Consciously, the women recollected a strange, disrupted night. They had been keeping a regular log of the night's observations. Two hours seemed unaccounted for. They thought they had gone to sleep, to be disturbed later by the approach of locals in a car. They hid, concerned about hooligans due to the notoriety of the UFO flap. They seemed to have slept again, waking up with one of them feeling that she was being pushed upwards on something. They gathered their gear, aware as they went down to their car of a sense of presence. At the car they heard a sound like someone walking on gravel in heavy boots. This sound seemed to go around the car. One of the women panicked.

They eventually left, in part disappointed they had not seen any UFOs, but also confused by the strange and surreal events of the night. A young UFO researcher, who had learned hypnosis from a stage hypnotist, subsequently convinced one of the women to undergo hypnosis to see if anything could be uncovered. In the session, she described becoming aware of a figure on the hill with them. A second session elaborated how the woman was apparently drawn up a light beam, along with one of her friends. The woman woke up in a small room. Both she and her friend were on raised horizontal slabs. A normal-looking humanoid figure was present. She described having a long and apparently pleasant conversation with this being, the details of which she would not elaborate. The woman next found herself and her friend being returned to the hillside, where the third member of the party had apparently slept through it all. The women declined further follow-up.

The woman, who was hypnotized in 1978, resurfaced in 1989 and contacted Keith Basterfield. I alerted him to the fact that Bryan Dickeson, son of Fred and Phyllis Dickeson of Timaru's Scientific Approach to Cosmic Understanding (SATCU) group, had investigated her experience in 1978, in a limited way. Given the complexity of the affair, with apparently three people involved, and because it had not been followed up in detail at the time, Keith and I collaborated on a detailed retrospective investigation. A complex background steeped in paranormal-type events was revealed in our inquiries with the woman, whom I will call Betty. We found her to be a forthright and credible witness to a complex UFO and psychic milieu that seemed to focus on her and, to a lesser extent, her two friends.

We felt that the situation would benefit from another hypnosis session with Betty, carried out this time under conditions following strict protocols, by a very experienced clinical psychologist. I participated in the session, insuring that the "three-stage technique" was properly carried out. What followed was, for both the psychologist and myself, an extraordinarily powerful session which revealed a set of experiences that approximated the 1978 hypnotic recall and expanded upon it in a revealing way. A brief extract from my rough notes of this regression indicate how potent it was. The session was recorded, but because of the limitations of space, I will restrict myself here to the notes. Here Betty is

responding very emotionally to the experience of seeing her sister-in-law being examined by alien beings:

> This guy says he knows me. I don't know him.
> Jesus Christ!
> S___'s asleep!
> Oh man, that's sick. No way. . . . Far out. . . .
> Fucking bastard! Leave her alone! Bloody mongrels.
> Sticking things into her. . . . Far out. . . .
> Yeah, yeah, yeah. . . . No way! I'm sorry, I don't care. I don't believe you. I'm sorry. You can't do things like that. This is my sister-in-law. Try it with me.
> Shit.
> Bull. . . . She is asleep!
> Who do you think you are?
> I don't give a stuff. . . . Go jump. . . .
> I'm not getting upset. . . .
> Just leave her alone. . . .
> Guinea pig. . . . Mongrels. . . . Get your hands off.
> There aren't any marks. . . .
> [Now Betty is very subdued]
> OK, right-o. . . .
> Come on. It's time for us to go, OK. . . .
> Thank you. . . . Thanks. . . . Right, yeah. . . . Bye, bye.

S___ was not hypnotized but was interviewed by Keith during our investigation. S___ was not able to add much beyond her conscious recall of the events and did not recall any onboard experience. Only Betty places her there. She provided Keith with a letter that puts a startling dimension on the night's events. S___ described a dream her mother had on the night the three women had their missing time experience. Her mother told S___ of this dream before she described to her the events on the hillside:

> The dream started with a house floating in the sky. Mum got into the house and searched for me, found me in a room with this huge bed. I was dressed funny with glowing green stuff on my face. Mum said she took my hand and started to run down this long corridor and Mandarin-like people were trying to stop her. We got past them and further down the corridor. She then woke up and found herself standing by the bedroom window. While she was there she saw a white ball of light slowly coming towards her, then it backtracked and suddenly took off. I always wondered if the two instances are connected. Mum at that time lived 3½ hours by car away. . . .

Because of space restrictions, only brief parts of this very complex series of events are described here. It suggests that something strange occurred on that hillside in Waimata Valley, near Gisborne, in March 1978. The fact that the three women were recent UFO enthusiasts on a UFO watch during a UFO flap, may suggest that the affair is more to do with wishful thinking. The complexity of the story, however, argues against such a simplistic dismissal.

I learned about this next case from Garry Wiseman, a "psychic astrologer." For a time he had a column, "Mysterious Worlds," in the Australian *People* magazine; this was followed by a column in *Picture* magazine, but as the editorial content of the magazine became increasingly tackier, Garry left. However, it was Wiseman's column in the October 3, 1990, issue of *Picture* that caught my eye. The headline, "Silver Aliens Prod Woman in the Guts!" was typical of the excesses of the magazine. One's reaction to such pieces in this sort of magazine is often that it probably isn't true, and if it is, it's an indictment that such experiences are forced to be fodder for sleazy tabloids, when they deserve better.

The story described how "silver aliens nabbed a terrified woman from her bed and beamed her aboard their spaceship for medical examination." The woman was identified as Winifred Crause, who said she was taken into a room and seated on an aluminum-looking bed. Two beings with slanted eyes kept prodding her around the stomach. The beings were about 1.3 meters tall. She saw that other people were sitting around the room, seemingly in a hypnotic trance. When she protested about the prodding and said that she was friendly, the beings continued to treat her like a lab specimen. They seemed to communicate with funny little sounds, like insects. After the examination was complete, she was somehow returned to her home in The Entrance, New South Wales. Winifred's psychic ability was described as having accelerated dramatically after her encounter, and she subsequently started doing professional readings as a clairvoyant.

Two things made her certain the encounter was not a dream. She felt very sore in the stomach area the next morning, and a regression session with a hypnotherapist prompted further vivid memories.

I spoke with Garry Wiseman about his story on October 29, 1990, asking directly whether this was a factual or fictional story. He indicated the story was accurate and that he had known Winifred Crause for many years as a clairvoyant/psychic. She was apparently well-known in psychic circles and was described by Garry as a traditional psychic. Garry gave me her contact details.

When I spoke to Winifred, I began by asking her to verify the accuracy of the column. However, she had not seen it yet. She interrupted me and told me not to tell her what was in the column. She said, "I'll tell you what happened. I was in bed. I was living at The Entrance at the time. I didn't know if I was dreaming or what it was, but suddenly I was absolutely petrified, absolutely terrified. I had never been so afraid in all my life. I was shaking my husband, and in my mind's eye I could see outside, like in the lounge room, on the balcony. . . . We were in like flats, but they were up on stilts and we had the cars underneath. And I could see them all around . . . shortish creatures they were. I was absolutely beside myself. My husband said, 'Oh, I want to get up and go out.' I said, 'No, you mustn't move. Stay with me.'" She continued:

What had happened was that I was taken up. I was in this place. It was like there were people sitting around. It was all very clinical. They were sort of in a semi-trance state if you like. They had me on a bed. It was like . . . a proper medical aluminum bed. They were sort of pummeling me. [They had] slanted eyes [and wore] silver outfits. . . . They were sort of communicating to one another with this strange sound. They treated me as if I was a bug on the table. That's all, as though I was just a bug. They were pummeling my stomach and everything, and I was saying, "Well, you don't have to be so cruel. You know, can't we be friends sort of thing." They just didn't take any notice of me at all, and I was really, really terribly upset. And then in the next minute I was back in my bed, and that was when I thought, Oh, I've dreamt it, but I could not have dreamt it. It was just so terrible an experience.

Later on we moved round to Toukley, where I really come from originally. We had a house on the water. I was looking across the water early in January 1974, I think, with my son when suddenly in the distance over The Entrance, this light came up with a sort of big glow. It came across the sky and sort of hovered there a long way in the distance. Suddenly it just sort of flashed and just disappeared. . . . My son, who was five at the time, ran screaming through the house (he was a very dramatic child), "It's a flying saucer! It's a flying saucer!" And he was absolutely terrified. Later on my husband came home. He's a musician and he had been working very late. He came home at about one o'clock in the morning and we were standing at the window looking out over the water and I was describing to him what I had seen. And true as God it was like it was on the end of my finger, exactly the same thing happened in the distance over The Entrance! It came up, same pattern, across and it just glowed very brightly and just disappeared. We just couldn't believe it.

Earlier in the night, that was about 7 p.m., there was an RAAF plane going across the lake. It all came out in the paper the next week. We kept that paper for a long time, I don't know what happened to it. . . . At the same time, the fellow at the RAAF . . . the pilot, reported it. We told nobody. We thought that people would just think we were just crazy. There were also these fishermen at Ettalong. They were in a boat and they said this craft hovered above their heads and sent down a blue light and they said they were suspended. Even the tide in their mind stayed still. Nothing moved. They released the blue light and everything was back to normal. That all happened around about the same time. . . .

After that experience I don't want to know anything about them. But I did go [to] a friend who is a hypnotherapist. I said, "Will you take me and put me under hypnosis and see if this actually happened or if it didn't happen." I went under hypnosis and went through the whole thing and it was terrifying! Absolutely terrifying and it was stronger. . . . I think I was more terrified under hypnosis than in the beginning, because it was clearer.

Upon reviewing Garry Wiseman's account she indicated, "One [of the other people in the room] was my sister and I've asked my sister, but she doesn't know anything about it." She did not recognize any of the others. She also confirmed the acceleration of her psychic abilities. "It did. It did. Well, I have been doing this work for a long time.... It really did, it was very strong, very profound actually."

Since my initial discussions with Winifred we had kept in touch and she had cooperated with a range of research activities. I have no doubt about the fact that she had some sort of experience. Her husband, David, did not see anything that evening, but is convinced his wife had a genuine experience. He has since been fascinated by the UFO experience, a fascination Winifred does not share.

Winifred Crause would subsequently appear on a major Australian TV debate on the ABC *Couchman* program on UFOs during September 1991 along with another abductee, Bronte Lloyd.

On July 27, 1987, near Spalding, south of Jamestown in South Australia, farmer Bronte Lloyd and his son-in-law saw some possible UFOs while seeding a paddock. The son-in-law left for town preferring not to stick around, and Lloyd returned to his house on the property. His dogs kicked up a racket, and upon investigating he saw an object he took to be "a car parked under trees 30 meters from the house." Lloyd got to within a few feet of the object. It was parked very neatly in a semicircle of trees. It appeared to be 12 feet across and 7 feet high, with a circular upper body tapered down to a square base. It rested on a couple of support legs. Two prominent ribs ran around the outside of it. There appeared to be portholes at regular intervals and three "headlights." Lloyd then retreated to his house. There followed what appears to have been a CE3 episode inside the house with a vague form and what may have been a period of missing time. Police were called and investigated. A square-shaped depression, apparently formed by considerable weight, was found. Footprints were also found in wet grass. Biochemist Tom Coote undertook a detailed investigation and did some analyses of blind soil samples from Lloyd. Some electrolyte level (salt levels) anomalies were found. As these were not clearly identified and Lloyd unfortunately died recently, there was no way to determine if these differences are at all significant.

Phase 4: 1991 to Date–Emergence

During April 1991, Keith Basterfield released the first catalog of UFO abduction events that provided details of 49 missing-time and abduction cases from Australia and New Zealand. This publication exemplified the focus on abduction cases occurring among Australian investigators.

Television also began to broadcast programs on abduc-

tions. For example, the *Intruders* TV miniseries based loosely on U.S. abduction researcher Budd Hopkins's best-selling book was aired on Australian television during May 1992. In October 1992, the national program *A Current Affair* aired an interview with Hopkins. Also on the program, a local woman identified as Judy described her childhood abduction experiences in New Zealand from about 1955. I had been quietly researching her experiences prior to her appearance. One interesting aspect of her story was her clear recollection of the device used by the beings to take a biopsy-type sample from her upper thigh.

The following experience was something of a sleeper. While it occurred in 1992, the full details of the event were not released until 1999. The case was a Sydney abduction experience from 1992, with biological evidence, that became the subject of the world's first DNA polymerase chain reaction UFO investigation, yielding intriguing results that have suggested fascinating new lines of investigation and speculation. I published this data in 1999. (See *IUR*, Spring 1999, pp. 3–16, 31, for a full account of this episode.)

Born in Lebanon in 1964, Peter Khoury migrated to Australia in 1973. He met his future wife Vivian in 1981, marrying in 1990. They have two children. What might be Peter's first encounter with a UFO occurred in Lebanon in the summer of 1971 at age seven. He and seven other children had gone up onto the flat rooftop of his neighbor's house to play. Peter was the last to walk through a heavy door that leads onto the roof. He then saw all his friends frozen like statues in front of him, while a silent egg-shaped craft hovered above. All eight children later found themselves on the ground floor after some time had elapsed, with no memory of the intervening period.

In Sydney, during February 1988, Peter and Vivian saw a strange light making extraordinary movements in conjunction with a beam-of-light effect. A frightening and life-changing alien abduction experience occurred on July 12, 1988, to Khoury, as I described above. At that time, he had no real context to anchor this disturbing experience. Eventually he became aware of abduction accounts and entered the UFO field initially to understand what happened to him. Eventually, frustrated with the problems and politics that plagued his association with ufology he formed the UFO Experience Support Association (UFOESA) during April 1993.

Despite trying to focus on supporting others, Khoury found that his strange experiences had continued. In retrospect, the most striking one occurred on July 23, 1992, according to diary entries. He had been recovering from head injuries received in a job-site assault (he worked in the building industry in his own cement-rendering business). At about 7 a.m., having returned to his suburban Sydney home from the train station after dropping off his wife, Khoury felt unwell and lay down on the bed to sleep.

He awoke with a start sometime later, aware of something alighting on the bed. He was shocked to see two strange women kneeling on the end of his bed. Both were naked. One appeared Nordic and the other Asian. Aspects of their appearance were quite odd. The Nordic female had a very elongated face and a sharply pointed chin. Her eyes appeared to be blue and two to three times larger than normal. She had very fine wispy blonde hair that seemed to be oddly blown up. Her skin color was quite light. The dark brown skinned Asian-looking woman seemed to have almost completely black eyes. Her hair was black and set in a firm pageboy style.

Although no normal communication occurred, the Nordic woman seemed to be in charge and Khoury got the impression she was giving the Asian-looking woman some sort of instruction. What followed was quite disorienting for Khoury. The Nordic woman, who seemed to be over six feet tall and apparently very strong, reached forward and pulled Khoury's head to her breast. He resisted, trying to pull away. She did this three times. Finally Khoury, trying to cope with the shock and disorienting nature of this experience, bit on her nipple, apparently swallowing a piece of it. The Nordic woman, although seemingly confused, did not react with any pain, nor was there any sign of blood. She seemed to convey to the other woman that this was not the way things were supposed to happen. Khoury was overcome with a coughing fit. Moments later, looking up again, he found that both women had vanished.

The coughing caused Khoury to go to the bathroom to get a drink of water. When he went to urinate he found it very painful to do so, caused by some very fine blond hair wrapped tightly under his foreskin. Khoury removed the hair and had the foresight to place it in a plastic sachet bag with a seal. He did that because he felt there was no way it should have been there. It was unlike his wife's hair. Khoury concluded that something extraordinarily bizarre had just occurred and linked the two strands of thin blond hair (about 10–12 and 6–8 centimeters long, respectively) to the strange tall, blond-haired Nordic-looking woman.

Even though Vivian had been very supportive of him about his 1988 abduction experience, Peter refrained from telling her what occurred for about two weeks. She accepted it far better than Peter did, telling him it was something he has no control over and they would deal with it as best they could.

Because of the bizarre and controversial nature of the 1992 episode, Peter was more comfortable describing his 1988 experience. The strange encounter with the two unusual women was discussed and examined in a limited and fragmentary way. It was not until 1996 that I heard from him about the hair sample that had been recovered from what may have been an alien abduction sexual assault case.

By 1998, I began an investigation into the hair sample, when biochemist colleagues agreed to undertake what was the world's first PCR (polymerase chain reaction) DNA profiling of biological material implicated in an alien abduction experience. The analysis confirmed the hair came from someone who was biologically close to normal human genetics, but of an unusual racial type—a rare Chinese

Mongoloid variant—one of the rarest human lineages known, which lies further from the human mainstream than any other except for African Pygmies and Australian Aboriginals. There was the strange anomaly of it being blond to clear instead of black, as would be expected from the Asian-type mitochondrial DNA. The study concluded, "The most probable donor of the hair must therefore be as [Khoury] claims: a tall blonde female who does not need much color in her hair or skin, as a form of protection against the sun, perhaps because she does not require it."

The original DNA work was done on the shaft of the hair. Fascinating further anomalies were found in the root of the hair. Two types of DNA were found, depending on where the mitochondrial DNA testing occurs, namely confirming the rare Chinese-type DNA in the hair shaft and indicating a rare possible Basque/Gaelic-type DNA in the root section.

This was very puzzling and controversial until a *Nature Biotechnology* paper appeared in 2000. It revealed recent findings on hair transplanting with previously incompatible hair, using advanced cloning techniques, developed in a possible cure for baldness. We seem to be seeing similar combined or grafted DNA in the sample recovered under controversial circumstances by Khoury in 1992. Perhaps even more controversial is that we have findings suggestive of nuclear DNA indicating a possible viral resistance. The hair sample seems to contain two deleted genes for CCR5 protein and no intact gene for normal undeleted CCR5. This CCR5 deletion factor has been implicated in AIDS resistance.

To keep a very complex story somewhat uncomplicated, what seems to be suggested by the range of findings is possible evidence for advanced DNA techniques and DNA anomalies, which we are only now discovering or starting to make sense of in mainstream biotechnology.

The nature of these genetic findings has led to some interesting possible connections with ancient cultures, myths, and archaeological finds such as the strange Tarim mummies of the Taklamakan Desert in northern China (tall European-like peoples—Celtic?—some of whom had blond hair), and the stories of the female Basque supreme goddess Mari and the Gaelic Irish tales of the Tuatha De Danann. These tales describe powerful gods with orange or blond hair and other unusual attributes. While such cultural and mythic connections are fascinating speculations, they also provide an interesting perspective on the many stories of Nordic-type beings in UFO abduction and contact cases.

This next case proved to be groundbreaking because it possibly involved multiple witnesses to an abduction. A woman, Kelly Cahill, was the first person to come forward. She contacted me on October 4, 1993, seeking assistance in understanding a bizarre experience she had near the outer Melbourne suburban housing estate of Narre Warren North, in the foothills of the Dandenongs, Victoria, during the early hours of August 8, 1993.

This incident has been now extensively documented. My own account of the complex episode has been published in *IUR* ("An Extraordinary Encounter in the Dandenong Foothills," September/October 1994, pp. 4–8, 18–20). I also referred to the case in some detail in my 1996 book *The Oz Files: The Australian UFO Story*. Kelly Cahill wrote her own book about the experience, *Encounter*, also published in 1996.

The case includes independent confirmation of a CE3 and missing-time event. At least two, possibly three, groups of people unknown to each other witnessed the same UFO encounter, entities, and also experienced missing time, and investigators have interviewed two of the groups. Perhaps for the first time independent witnesses have been able to provide information that enabled cross-checking and correlations to reveal a striking degree of similar information, therefore offering a compelling case for the reality of the strange events described. The veridical nature of the events is further strengthened by a range of apparently related physical traces, including ground traces, a low-level magnetic anomaly apparently consistent with the location of the UFO encounter, and physiological effects on some of the witnesses.

I referred Kelly Cahill, who proved to be central to the case, to John Auchettl and his group Phenomena Research Australia (PRA). They had two different laboratories confirm a number of unusual anomalies and magnetic deviations at the apparent site of the UFO landing. There appeared to be some interesting changes in soil chemistry—above-average sulphur content, the presence of pyrene (which occurs in coal tar and is also obtained by the destructive hydrogenation of hard coal) and tannic acid—in a crescent-shaped indentation. There was a triangular formation of dead grass on the ground, spaced out in the site. The apparent physical effects at the site of the UFO event seem to have had a destructive effect on the grass. Making a compelling case for the reality of abduction reports may well hinge on such striking physical effects.

In 1993, via my friend and research associate, psychologist Dick Warburton, I became aware of the UFO events that focused on a Sydney man, Terry Contageorge. Two particular events stood out for him, one at a place called the Giant's Knapsack, near Lithgow, New South Wales, around 1983 when he was about 25, and an episode in 1992 at Nabiac, which also involved his son.

Terry had traveled to the Giant's Knapsack with a friend, who wanted to look at a property in the area. As they neared the area, the car stopped a number of times. Each time Terry got out of the car it would start. At the Knapsack—a huge rise, rather like the Devil's Tower of the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*—something strange happened. An incredible, energetic, black cloud developed. A sound came up from either side of the Knapsack, like a rushing train, which then seemed to come down the face of the rise. Terry could make out trees that seemed to bend in the progress of the "sound express." The two men were hit full on by some sort of force, and confusion and disorienta-

tion followed. Terry recollects a forested area and looking for rabbits. He remembered seeing rabbits looking back at him through a thicket. He eventually found himself back at the car, where a confused friend had apparently been waiting. They left the area in a hurry, puzzled by what had happened.

The more recent episode also troubled Terry. He had been camping on a family property with his son. Both had shot upright from sleep in their tent, after midnight, and saw a conglomeration of lights situated in an adjacent paddock. Terry looked briefly, but then went promptly back to sleep. This reaction puzzled him, as he is very protective of his son.

We soon determined that Terry had some other unusual events in his life. These included a striking "astral" spaceflight memory that seemed to involve passing the planets and a daylight UFO sighting at Coogee, witnessed by his future wife, Kerrie.

Dick and I sat in on regression sessions conducted by an experienced hypnotherapist who explored the Knapsack episode. From these emerged the impression that the "rabbits" were gray, had no fur, and were apparently the size of children. They were moving around rapidly.

Dick Warburton sat in on a further session in which Terry immediately went to an extraordinarily startling memory at age eight, where he is standing at a large black window with planets going by, including Saturn. There were two or three people present, but he was unable to clearly recollect them. This was a very pleasant, awe-inspiring recollection for Terry.

When the hypnotherapist asked Terry to go back earlier, he abreacted in a distressing way and started to scream in pain, clutching his penis. In his memory, he was apparently six and lying on a table, with what seemed to be a picture of his stomach on a screen above him. Three small people, in overalls and with faces covered, were present. Something is pushed up his penis, causing great distress.

My friend Robb Tilley and Terry returned to the Giant's Knapsack so that Terry could determine whether his recollections were accurate. He came away from it convinced of the apparent reality of the experience there. Robb found that all of Terry's site recollections proved accurate.

Terry found that the hypnosis sessions, the discussions with researchers like Dick Warburton, Robb Tilley, and myself, and the visit back to the site all served to place his experiences in a better light for him. He felt much more comfortable with it and was beginning to get greater understanding of the various events in his life.

Keith Basterfield formed the Australian UFO Abduction Study Centre in 1994, in an attempt to act as a communication forum for the diverse approaches to this controversial aspect of the UFO subject. Its aims included being a contact point for individuals who believe they have interacted with the UFO abduction phenomenon, acting as an information and referral service for these people and other interested parties, and encouraging research into the UFO abduction phenomenon. Basterfield has explored a number of possible psychological explanations for aspects of the UFO phenomenon. In 1981, his book *UFOs, the Image Hypothesis: Close Encounters of an Australian Kind* tried to link hypnagogic and hypnapompic imagery (within the sleep/awake interface) as a possible explanation of UFO close-encounter experiences. This hypothesis was clearly inadequate to explain most anomalous UFO events and was soon abandoned. More serious attention was given to the fantasy-prone hypothesis that he linked to UFO abduction experiences, and several studies were completed to test it (they failed to substantiate the hypothesis). Keith has moved on and is exploring other explanations, including sleep paralysis, an explanation suggested by Susan Blackmore. Such psychological explanations need to be sorted through to determine if we are dealing with a genuine anomaly outside our current understanding. A great deal more careful research needs to be done.

One of the most striking abduction milieus I have been involved with is the lifelong complex of sightings that involved Diane Harrison. They began when she was a child in the Pennine district of England and continued when her family moved to Australia. She has experienced a number of events that were witnessed by others. I have been undertaking a detailed investigation of her experiences. Diane Harrison was interviewed on Jeff Rense's nationally syndicated U.S. radio show on July 15, 2003, and I participated in the program. It can be accessed on the archived radio programs at his website (www.rense.com).

As you have seen, the abduction phenomenon in Australia is, in most respects, very much like that in other parts of the world, especially the United States. What this implies about the ultimate nature of the phenomenon remains to be determined. ✦

INTERSTELLAR ESPIONAGE

Have aliens sent mechanical emissaries to our solar system—robotic probes on a snoopy mission to reconnoiter Earth? Such a scenario has frequently appeared in the SETI literature, and Allen Tough, at the University of Toronto, has urged that we take the idea seriously enough to make a search for these alien "bugs."

How big do the probes have to be? Allen Tough has written that these alien bugs "could be smarter and more knowledgeable than any human being, yet . . . be smaller than a basketball or baseball." Smaller is better for two reasons: Less energy is required to hurl them to other worlds, and they would be harder to find and confiscate by any intelligent beings on the spied-upon planet.

On the other hand, the probes are pretty useless if they don't have the oomph required to send back data, either via a radio signal or a tightly focused infrared laser. A relatively small probe could orbit near to Earth, making high-resolution photos and collecting information, while a larger, more distant probe might hang out in the asteroid belt. —*Space.com,* posted January 22, 2004.

SIGHT UNSEEN—*continued from page 16*

Hopkins and Rainey present several fascinating cases in which such beings have appeared in the lives of experiencers. In what I felt was the most fascinating case, a character named "Mr. Page" lived with an experiencer family for nearly 15 years. The primary witness in the case, an experiencer with the pseudonym of "Anne-Marie," had a close familial relationship with him for nearly all of that time. While, on the surface, it seemed to be a very positive relationship, it also had definite negative undertones. This was especially true when she described how Mr. Page would take Anne-Marie on "nature hikes," of which she remembers very little. In hypnotic trance, references to these apparent missing-time periods engendered powerful emotional responses. This is similar to the emotional responses which I note that experiencers often have in hypnotic trance, when viewing such aspects of childhood life as a mysterious "secret friend." The previously existing positive veneer seems to become a very mixed bag, which also includes a considerably darker aspect to its underlying nature.

Hopkins and Rainey further develop the idea of transgenics—gene transplantation from one species to another. This seems to be an effective answer to criticisms of the idea that the UFO/CE4 phenomenon seems to be based upon human-alien hybridization. The hybridization idea has been heavily criticized on the grounds that human and alien DNA—if ETs actually have DNA at all—would be fundamentally incompatible. Hopkins and Rainey grant this point and build a very detailed picture, based upon current human medical technology, of interspecies gene transplantation.

From abduction accounts, they discern technological descriptions which very much suggest that such a transgenic endeavor may be exactly what is at the core of the UFO/CE4 phenomenon. They build an intriguing case for an apparent effort to build a transgenic race, for reasons only the Visitors know. We can ask about possible purposes for which this might be done. And from other work by David Jacobs, Raymond Fowler, and John Mack, the potential answers that we find are both encouraging and chilling.

In his concluding remarks, Hopkins briefly touches upon these questions, which could be roughly paraphrased as follows:

1. Is this some form of conquest or exploitation, the very dark side of the spectrum of possibilities?

2. Are they somehow here to enlighten us, to bring us knowledge or technology?

3. Are they some form of scientific explorers or researchers, doing to us what we would do to experimental animals (for purposes yet unknown)?

4. Or is there yet another explanation that we haven't yet begun to touch on?

At the conclusion of *Sight Unseen,* Hopkins brushes up on some of these ideas. He describes his view of the often-painful way in which the abduction phenomenon affects the lives of its experiencers. He concludes by stating that he "nurtures a tiny seed of cautious optimism." As I finished the book, I was left with a sense of a "spooky plausibility" to the abduction phenomenon as Hopkins and Rainey characterize it.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Hopkins's case descriptions are detailed and offer the reader an in-depth portrayal of the way his ideas developed. However, in this book, he does not attempt to present exhaustive investigative results for these cases. Thus, I have heard criticism that the book does not provide sufficient or compelling documentation. However, Hopkins's purpose appears to be to present material to support Rainey's analysis, rather than convincingly document the investigation. An underlying assumption of the book appears to be that the reader can validate the cases as much as needed, through other means. It is up to the readers to decide for themselves whether they agree that this is the case.

(In CE4 cases, due to confidentiality requirements between the experiencer and the researcher or therapist, it is usually very difficult to corroborate investigative claims regarding a particular event. The events of an encounter are often of an extremely personal or sensitive nature, and exposure could potentially subject the experiencer to ridicule or worse. Thus, identifying and corroborative details are often unavailable unless specific permission is granted by the experiencer.)

Accompanying these cases, Rainey provides a good but brief overview of the associated technologies that they seem to portray. While interesting, I felt that her descriptions were generally too brief. She could have built a more compelling case with quite a bit more detail. In many instances, this would require considerably more of an understanding of physics and mathematics than the reader needs in order to enjoy the book. So, in the end, I think she has done a good job of providing a perhaps overly simple "fifty thousand foot view" of the technology for the nontechnical reader. I found her descriptions sufficient to whet one's curiosity, and for the curious, I noted sufficient references to allow one to pursue the subject further. Yet for the skeptics, I do not believe that either the case material presented or the technological analyses would be convincing.

In summary, I believe that Hopkins and Rainey build a fascinating case for the idea that the CE4 phenomenon displays an array of very advanced technology by human standards. They conclude (rightly, I think) that the phenomenon represents an external biotechnological tinkering with humanity for unknown purposes. They further build the case that the intermediate results of this project are (at times) present among us as hybrids and other strange "human-aliens." Given some of the similarities between the cases that Hopkins describes and cases in my files and those of other researchers, I must agree that this book offers some very good arguments. As a UFO/CE4 researcher myself, I find their book plausible and therefore somewhat "spooky."

OF INTEREST TO CUFOS ASSOCIATES

HOW UFOs USED THE PI AND GOLDEN SECTION TO MEASURE THE WORLD

UFOs' modern role as protective chariots of fire who outlined intelligent design units and grid patterns around measured creation worlds. Book, $15.00. Kenneth Lloyd Larson, 200 North Commonwealth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90004.

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If you have not seen and heard the **Disclosure Project** videos which were sent to all members of Congress to alert them to the facts about UFOs and enforced witness silence now being revealed, write to LAURA, P.O. Box 1621, Lima, OH 45802, for the evidence you should show to skeptics you know.

However, if I was an unfamiliar but skeptical reader from outside the field, I might well feel otherwise—remaining unconvinced as I turned the final pages.

In the end, I can only suggest that you read *Sight Unseen* and decide for yourself. ✦

B.C. SIGHTING

Just past 6:00 p.m. on August 11, 2003, Diana Luca and her mother were chatting at the kitchen table in Luca's home in New Westminster, British Columbia. Out of the corner of her eye, Luca spotted a black object behind the trees in the back alley. "Look, it's a balloon," she said. But when the two stepped onto the patio, they saw what they now insist is a UFO. "It still freaks me out. I could see it flying behind the trees and on top of the shorter trees," said the 34-year-old.

Luca claims the object—flat and shaped like a Frisbee—flipped to its underside, which was as red and shiny as a Coke can. Scared, she called her husband, Mark Murphy, who was inside. By the time he reached the porch, the object looked cigar-shaped and was an estimated three kilometers away. Murphy rushed inside to retrieve a camcorder and documented the rest of the sighting on tape.

From the right side of the screen, a small, shiny object moves towards the center, then heads rapidly towards the camera. As it gets closer, it becomes a round, black form that vibrates slightly, at one point turning on its side, giving it the cigar shape.

"It's something I'll never forget for the rest of my life—I was in shock. The clarity of this is just incredible," he said. —*Vancouver Courier,* March 16, 2004.

CANADA—*continued from page 14*

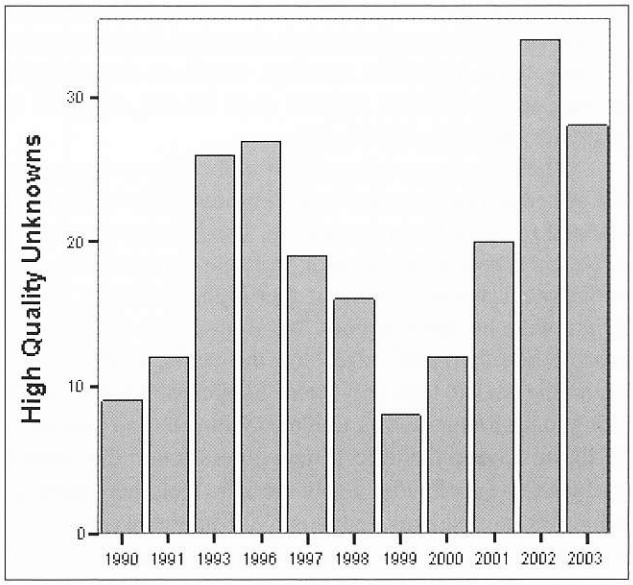

Fig. 3. High-quality, unexplained UFO sightings by year in Canada, 1989–2003.

Given all these data, it is a bit difficult to decide whether there are any definite trends in the UFO sighting data, though we are safe in saying that sightings haven't decreased over time in the last fifteen years in Canada. But whatever the trend, the UFO phenomenon remains puzzling and unexplained, as the annual Canadian survey has so well demonstrated. ✦

Letters

Bossa revisited

To the editor:

Thank you for publishing our article about the curious incident of Enrique Carotenuto Bossa ("Crash Landing in the Pampas," *IUR,* Summer 1999, pp. 4–10, 30–31). We neglected to credit the translator of Bossa's letter from French into English: It was none other than ufologist Alexander Mebane.

APRO offered prints of Bossa's photos for sale at the time (1955), but we have not located any. If an *IUR* reader has one, we would appreciate the opportunity to get a copy. Please write to Roberto Banchs, Cispedes 3422, CP 1426 Buenos Aires, Argentina; or Richard W. Heiden, 4076 N. 70 Street, Milwaukee, WI 53216-1129.

We recently came across a similar case in the July 1964 *A.P.R.O. Bulletin*, p. 7, citing the Feb. 16, 1964, *Allentown (Pa.) Sunday Call-Chronicle*. Unlike Bossa, the witness did not walk aboard the UFO, nor did he see any crew members.

Here is a summary: It was a warm summer night in 1933; there was no moon, but there was some starlight. At about 2:30 a.m. the car of an anonymous 18-year-old man had a flat tire between Cherryville and Moorestown, Pa. While jacking up the 1925 Roadster, he saw a faint violet light in the field to the right. Curious, he walked about 200 feet toward it, and on the grass lay a ball-shaped object about 10 feet in diameter and about six feet high. Light was also coming from a slit-like opening, which on examination proved to be a small circular door (about one foot in diameter) that was slightly ajar.

When the young man pushed it, the door swung open. He poked his head in and looked around. The violet light seemed to come from the ceiling. The interior was full of dials and tubing with a kind of "console" in the center. The room was six feet wide, four feet high, and had a dome. There were no seats or beds, but the witness did notice a marble-like "striated" effect on the walls. It smelled of ammonia and it was very cold. Shapes of several small things had strange curves, unlike anything he had ever seen. Walking around the object, the witness found the outside surface to be slick, with a cold metallic feel; there were no windows (nor had any been visible from the inside). After examining it for about 10 minutes, he returned to the car, fixed the flat, and continued home to Nazareth, Pa.

The young witness didn't see any sign of life, and the silence was "deadly." "He says, however, he could have been observed. He feels, from the size of the ship and the odor, the occupant could have been reptilian in nature." As slender as the link is in this case, this may be the first UFO-reptilian connection—certainly in 1933, if not in 1964 (when the case was reported) as well.

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Orthoteny reconciled

To the editor:

Don Johnson's reply to my comments about his paper on orthoteny (see the Spring 2000, Fall 2000, and Summer 2003 issues of *IUR*) offers very useful information. It clears up several points about the concepts or the methodology he used, and it is evident that several of my criticisms have lost most of their strength. I agree fully, for instance, with the permanence of great circles, including BAVIC. Such an approach to statistical research on geographical features of UFO events is of course perfectly valid even if it has serious divergence with Aimé Michel's original procedure.

I did not really assume that Johnson had "relied solely upon 'play[ing] with point coordinates in a computer'"; the exact phrase was: "Apparently, Johnson did not attempt such [statistical] validation, or, more precisely, this does not appear in his paper." Thanks to Johnson's clarifications, things are now clear.

Even if I can understand that orthodox ufologists don't accept the debunking of many of the cases in the 1954 French wave by Gerard Barthel and Jacques Brucker in *La Grande Peur Martienne, ou enquête sur une année au dessus de tout soupçon* (Paris: Nouvelles Editions Rationalistes, 1979), most were never fully investigated and thus have low reliability. Many of them were probably practical jokes or mundane misinterpretations due to the social context created by the media, and in this respect the 1954 wave (at least in France) has some similarity with the 1896–97 American one. Johnson assures us that he "filtered out those cases that were flagged by the primary investigator as either explained or probably explainable," and that was wise. But I'm not sure that present-day ufologists would be as generous as their predecessors.

One of Johnson's arguments seems unclear to me. He mentions sets of parallel lines overlapping the grid (see his figure 1), which suggest the appearance of satellite tracks. I wonder if this feature and Johnson's view that the "orthotenic alignments represent a navigation system" are really compatible with his use of cases that are basically close encounters. If we accept them at face value, the 1954 cases suggest the exploration of a country and/or a close approach to its population. Do these actions require a navigation grid as postulated by Johnson?

As for the "intra-ocular impact test," why not? It does not, however, solve the only true problem about orthoteny or related matters: Is the perceived structure real and therefore intrinsically meaningful? Or is it fundamentally an artifact, a kind of fanciful creation of our minds? Johnson gives the first answer, myself the second, and each of us naturally thinks he is right. But who is *really* right?

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